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IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW + FASHION

Bungled rescue may have led to beheading of British hostages



The kidnapped engineers who are believed to have been killed in Chechnya: Rudolf Petschi (left), from Devon, Stanley Shaw, a Surrey-based New Zealander, Darren Hickey, from Surrey, and Peter Kennedy, from Hereford

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

THE DECAPITATED remains of four men, almost certainly the communication engineers kidnapped two months ago in Chechnya, were discovered yesterday amid reports that local security forces had halted a rescue attempt just hours earlier.

British officials in Moscow were last night trying to arrange for a positive identification of the remains discovered early yesterday morning on a windswept roadside in a village on Chechnya's eastern border. The four men were kidnapped in the capital city, Grozny, while working in the lawless former Soviet republic, against strong advice from the Foreign Office.

Yesterday, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, pledged that he would do everything he could to find out what had happened. "We will work hard to find the truth," he said. "We need to know what happened and what is being done to bring to justice those who committed such repugnant murders."

However, *The Independent* has learnt that in recent months the Foreign Office (FCO) had, with the approval of the hostages' families, handed over day-to-day running of efforts to secure the release of the men to Granger Telecom, the company employing three of the engineers. It, in turn, had

hired specialist security consultant Control Risks for advice on securing the release.

Last night, Control Risks refused to comment on its involvement in efforts at a rescue.

The four engineers: Darren Hickey, 26, of Surrey; Peter Kennedy, 46, of Hereford; Rudolf Petschi, 42, of Devon and Surrey-based New Zealander Stanley Shaw, 53, had been working in Chechnya to install satellite and mobile phone links to a country whose infrastructure had been destroyed by war.

At the time of the kidnap, both Granger and British Telecommunications – which was employing Mr Kennedy – defended the decision to work in Chechnya, a country the FCO

strongly advises against travelling to. The chief executive of Granger, Raymond Verth, said it was a "risk worth taking" for a deal worth a reported £190m.

In a statement issued yesterday, Mr Verth said: "We are devastated to hear the news of the deaths of the four hostages. Their murder is an appalling and barbaric act... We were especially shocked by this hor-

rific news as we were making every effort to secure the safe release of the hostages. We had opened a dialogue with the kidnappers and received confirmation that the hostages were alive as recently as last week."

Attention turned last night to reports that the men may have been killed after a bungled rescue attempt by Chechen security forces. Mr Verth said they

were not aware in advance of any rescue attempt, although reports from Grozny on Monday claimed that the security forces knew where the hostages were.

An official source in Grozny said: "The whole place is awash with rumours at the moment. No one knows why the men were executed. It is certainly a new development because hostage-takers here have not done this before. There are reports that the security forces had tried to rescue the men but... no one is saying anything."

A further report from Grozny last night suggested that one kidnapper had been captured. Official sources said Britain had not been involved in a rescue attempt.

In Britain, as news of the disaster emerged, the families of the victims were said to be numb with grief. Eamonn Hickney, father of Mr Hickey, reacted to early unconfirmed reports that four bodies had been found by saying he was "hoping and praying" that they turned out to be baseless rumour.

As more details emerged a family friend, speaking at the pub run by the Hickneys in Thames Ditton, Surrey, said:

"They are unable to say anything. Like everyone else involved they are in a state of deep shock."

Yesterday, as officials in Chechnya promised to name the guilty men later today, the President, Aslan Maskhadov, blamed "foreign special forces" and their Chechen agents for carrying out the killings. He said the aim was to provoke more violence and hinder his attempts to build relations abroad.

As the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, called for tougher security, speculation also turned to the future of a country not recognised by the rest of the world but clearly beyond the control of Russia.

The kidnap of the four men came just two weeks after British aid workers Jon James, 40, and Camilla Carr, 38, were released after being held hostage in Chechnya for 18 months.

Around 100 people are believed to be held in the country, most of them Russian servicemen.

'I saw the heads lined up on a piece of cloth'

BY HELEN WOMACK
in Moscow

EVEN BY the gruesome standards of Chechnya, the sight that confronted the man early yesterday morning on a remote village road was a medieval one.

The severed heads of four men had been left on the verge, the identification documents of their owners carefully placed next to them.

They were found by an unnamed motorist, less than 50 miles from the capital city, Grozny, and it was immediately clear who they were.

Russian Musayev, a reporter for the Associated Press who also witnessed the ghoulish

scene, said: "I saw the heads neatly lined up beside the highway. They were lined up on a piece of cloth in plain view of passers-by."

"Two of the heads had wounds to the temple, and possibly gunshot wounds," he said.

Chechen fighters prevented journalists from filming the scene on the deserted road be-

tween barren wintry fields near the village of Dovydovo.

"It appeared that somebody had brought them and dropped them by the roadside for all to see," the motorist told a correspondent for Russia's independent NTV channel.

Within an hour of the find, Umar Makhrout, who had been one of the engineers' body-

guards, came to the roadside and recognised the faces of the dead men.

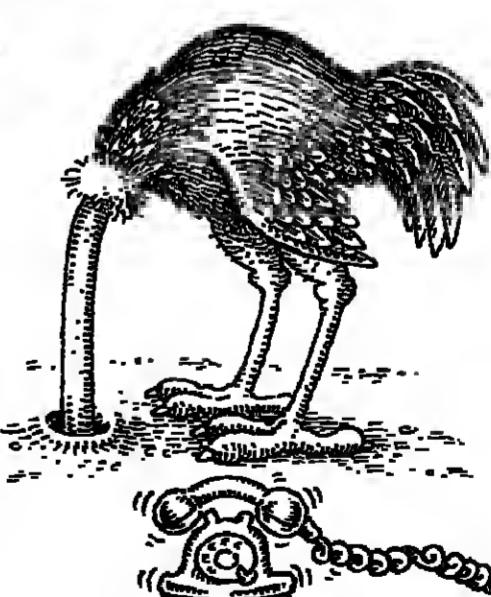
He was certain that they were Peter Kennedy, Darren Hickey, Rudolf Petschi and Stanley Shaw.

Last night the victims' heads were said to have been taken to Grozny morgue.

No bodies were found by

the roadside, although the Chechen leader, Aslan Maskhadov, said later that the bodies had been found elsewhere. The testimony of the unnamed driver was relayed by an NTV correspondent, Said Tsarayev, who said that Chechen gunmen then closed the roads in the area, and people were too afraid to approach.

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Schroder and Chirac pile the pressure on Blair

BY STEPHEN CASTLE, IMRE KARACS AND ANDREW GRICE

TONY BLAIR was under renewed pressure over Europe last night as France and Germany called for a reduction of the veto in European decision-making, new targets for cutting unemployment and a push for economic co-operation.

In a joint letter, France and Germany proposed a controversial agenda for this weekend's summit of European Union leaders in Vienna, dashingly British hopes of avoiding a debate on further integration. They also appeared to attack the special rebate on Britain's contributions to EU funds.

The letter raised the prospect of a direct confrontation between Mr Blair and European heads of government, after recent friction over tax harmonisation and suggestions that individual member states should lose their veto over tax policy.

That ambition remained alive in last night's letter from Gerhard Schroder, the German Chancellor, and Jacques Chirac, the French President, who called for bold new think-

ing about EU reform. They said an "extension of decisions taken by qualified majority is of vital importance".

Although France and Germany avoided the term "tax harmonisation", the joint letter called for a "programme in the area of social and tax policies, aimed especially at avoiding unfair tax practices and wage dumping".

Other controversial issues raised include a move towards green taxes. The letter argues: "It is desirable to ease taxes on labour and strengthen the ecological aspects of tax policy Europe-wide."

Robinson is 'ready to go'

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

GEOFFREY ROBINSON's ministerial future looked increasingly uncertain last night as the embattled Paymaster-General faced renewed criticism about his performance. Rumours were circulating that Mr Robinson might quietly resign over the Christmas break, citing ill-health as a reason.

An air of farce existed as Treasury spokesmen were forced to rebut suggestions that the minister had advertised his services in Yellow Pages as a political consultant. The insert turned out to be a mistake, but it added to a pernicious sense that Mr Robinson

could not survive. Some sources suggested the minister's performance at the Treasury had been affected by publicity about his business interests.

A further report yesterday suggested Mr Robinson had been stripped of responsibilities on tax because of adverse publicity about his £12m offshore trust. He was forced to apologise to the House of Commons last month for failing to register company directorships.

Troubles take toll, page 2

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Two months of silence from land of kidnapping, chaos and Kalashnikovs



AT 11.39am local time the news broke at the British Embassy on Sofiiskaya Naberezhnaya in central Moscow.

The report, from the Reuters news agency, was as stark as it was lacking in detail: three bodies had been found in Chechnya, 40 miles from the capital Grozny, and it was believed they were those of the British hostages.

Within moments, the report, and others that corrected the number of bodies to four, were passed directly to the ambassador Sir Andrew Wood, who was working in his office.

Staff in the embassy, stedically tried to verify the reports. "We take all the reports we get seriously. Of course there had been many reports and rumours and the most important thing was to try and establish some facts," said an embassy source.

"We started getting on to our contacts to find out what we could."

The tragedy that emerged yesterday started two months earlier in Lermontovo Street, a nondescript thoroughfare in central Grozny, capital of the lawless Muslim republic of Chechnya.

At around 4am on Sunday 4 October around 20 men armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles stormed a small building.

Grozny is one of the most dangerous places in the world, but the three Britons and one New Zealander staying there setting up telecommunication links should have been able to sleep safely that Sunday morning, protected as they were by six specially hired bodyguards.

But only one of the hired guns fought back, injuring one of the kidnappers. The sound of what was obviously a gun battle was ignored by the Chechen security forces whose headquarters were only 500 yards away.

The Britons, Darren Hickey, Rudolf Petschi and Peter Kennedy and the New Zealander Stanley Shaw apparently knew the risks of working in Chechnya.

Kidnapping for ransom, brutal massacres and beheadings used to be common all over medieval Europe. In the mountainous Caucasus region of Chechnya, where banditry is the rule rather than the exception, hostage taking and murder is still a way of life.

The Foreign Office considers it too dangerous to station any staff there. Since the beginning of this year alone, 176 people, many of them ethnic Russians, have been kidnapped in the region.

The Chechens, a Muslim nation whose forefathers abducted their Russian conquerors in the 19th century, have used kidnapping to punish those they perceive as invaders in the recent war for independence.

Often the Chechen kidnappers are common criminals. On *Man in the Mask*, a Russian television show that allows guests to hide their faces while speaking on sensitive subjects, a "middle-man" recently described an elaborate racket whereby the Russian mafia pays ransoms to Chechen kidnappers, splits the profits and keeps the business going.

Although much human misery was involved, the trade would continue, he said, because "that's market economics for you and this is a major market."

Raymond Verth, chief executive of Granger Telecom, the firm for which three of the men worked, said they had volunteered to go.

"We undertook the contract with that knowledge (about the lack of security) and considered the risks were worth the effort," he said.

At stake was a long-term deal worth a reported £190m - a massive amount for the company based in Weybridge, Surrey. Contrary to some reports that they were receiving massive "danger money" payments, the four men were not making a fortune.

Mr Hickey, 26, had been to



Chechen guerrillas posing with a wolf - symbol of liberty and independence - at the gates of the presidential palace in Grozny, Chechnya

Chechnya several times a year and was earning between £20,000 and £25,000.

Mr Kennedy, a self-employed engineer employed by British Telecom, was on a 12-day contract.

Immediately after their kidnap there was silence; there were no demands from the kidnappers, and little emerged from the Foreign Office or from the Chechen authorities.

The four engineers must have kept up their spirits with the thought that only a few weeks earlier, the British aid workers, Camilla Carr and Jon James, were released after 14 months in captivity. "We would just tell the families to keep praying," said Alexandra Little, Ms Carr's sister-in-law.

Boris Berezovsky, the Russian media tycoon and politician responsible for relations with former Soviet republics, provided an aircraft to fly the two aid workers from Chechnya to Moscow.

But things were moving quickly behind the scenes. Within 24 hours the Foreign Office had called a meeting of officials from various Whitehall departments and other interested bodies, including the foreign intelligence service MI6 and the FO's specialist hostage unit.

The mood at the meeting, held the day after the kidnapping at the Foreign Office headquarters, in King Charles

Street, London, had been workmanlike. It was the same later that day when officials met representatives from Granger and British Telecom and the men's relatives.

Initially it seemed progress had been made. In a statement issued yesterday, Raymond Verth said: "We were making every effort to secure the safe release of the hostages. We had opened a dialogue with the kidnappers and received confirmation that the hostages were alive as recently as last week."

The Chechen authorities also claimed they were doing what they could and were questioning the injured kidnapper who was being treated at a hospital at Urits-Martan, 20 miles south of Grozny.

But it emerged yesterday that some sort of negotiations were going on. With the agreement of the hostages' families, Granger Telecom took over day-to-day control of moves to try to secure the release of the men.

The Independent has learnt that to help them in their goal the company employed Control Risks, a firm specialising in providing security for businesses working in some of the most

dangerous places in the world.

The Foreign Office was aware that Granger was working with Control Risks.

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The mood at the meeting, held the day after the kidnapping at the Foreign Office headquarters, in King Charles

COUNTDOWN TO KILLINGS

20 September
British aid workers Camilla Carr and Jon James fly home after being held in Chechnya for 14 months.

4 October
The four victims are taken. Kidnappers and at least one of the Britons' bodyguards is injured in a gun battle.

5 October
Roy Verth, chief executive of the men's company, says he and his staff were aware of the dangers in Chechnya and took precautions. But he "considered the risks were worth the effort of the contract" to install a cellular radio-telephone system.

14 October
Visiting Poland, Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov tells the press he believes the hostages are alive and that he hopes they will soon be released.

16 October
Ruslan Aushev, President of the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia, says the hostages' lives are not at risk, and promises to do all he can to free them.

20 October
Some 14 Russian soldiers and a Turkish businessman held hostage in Chechnya are set free.

25 October
The Chechen government announces it is about to launch a major offensive against kidnappers. On the day this offensive is due to be launched, a bomb detonates outside the anti-kidnapping unit's Grozny HQ. Its chief, Shaid Bargashov, 27, is fatally injured.

13 November
President Boris Yeltsin's envoy to Chechnya is released six months after being taken hostage there.

8 December
Chechen authorities say they have found the heads of the three Britons and one New Zealander.

'I always knew, but having it confirmed is devastating'

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON



Johann Petschi, father of dead Rudi

thought for a minute that he would be killed. We were told that it would be OK but after today I won't believe anything anymore. My mum and dad are completely devastated."

The wife and father of Rudi Petschi were away from their homes in Devon, and were

believed to be being comforted by friends and relatives yesterday. Mr Petschi's father, Johann, a retired quarry worker, was widowed earlier this year.

Rudi Petschi, 42, a former Royal Signals soldier, had moved into a new house in Cullompton with his wife, Louise, shortly before he flew to Chechnya. A fluent Russian speaker, he was contracted by Granger Telecom to act as an interpreter.

Les Boyland, who became friends with Mr Petschi during an 85-mile tandem bicycle ride around Devon to raise money for charity, said: "I was looking for someone to help me raise money and he agreed."

"At the time, he was unemployed and looking for work - I think he must have taken that job in Chechnya shortly afterwards. He was a really nice and

generous bloke and always very polite.

"I rang Louise after I heard of the abduction to wish her well and at that stage she was still hopeful. She said she was looking forward to him being released and was planning a mega party to welcome him home."

Stan Shaw's wife, Lily, and their four-year-old daughter had also left their family home in New Haw, Surrey, yesterday. Yellow ribbons had been tied around the bungalow and to trees on the main road outside. Mr Shaw, aged 58, was a New Zealander.

The fourth victim, Peter Kennedy, 46, of Hereford, had been employed as an independent contractor by British Telecommunications to test a satellite telephone link from Chechnya. He was separated from his wife.

BRITISH HOSTAGES KILLED ABROAD

Keith Mangan and Paul Wells

Kashmir, India, 1998: Muslim separatists responsible for the 1995 kidnapping of Mr Mangan and Mr Wells claim that they were executed in December of that year following pressure from the US government for their release, although the original kidnappers are all reported

to have been killed in clashes with the Indian army.

Christopher Howes

Cambodia, March 1996:

Khmer Rouge executed the

mine-clearing expert despite

payment (against the advice of

the British government) of a £75,000 ransom by his

employers, the Mines Advisory Group charity.

Mark Slater

Cambodia, September 1994:

Khmer Rouge responsible

for the death of Mr Slater.

Negotiations over a £33,000

ransom broke down, and he

was killed after his captors

made political demands.

Dominic Chappell and

Tina Dominy

Cambodia, June 1994: Mr

Chappell and Ms Dominy were executed by the Khmer Rouge after a ransom demand.

Peter Kessler

Colombia, October 1992:

Kidnapped by Revolutionary

Armed Forces of Colombia,

the businessman was killed

during a Colombian army

rescue attempt.

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Cars: Prescott unveils plans to charge urban motorists, but loses battle to spend revenue exclusively on public transport

City drivers face tolls 'in 15 months'

JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister, has lost his battle with the Chancellor of the Exchequer over ploughing the money raised from charges on drivers back into public transport, it was claimed yesterday.

Not all the money raised by charging motorists to drive into urban centres will be used for local public transport schemes. The consultation document, published yesterday, revealed that some of the money raised would be returned to the Treasury and after 10 years the cash can be used for non-transport schemes.

The Government's plans call for a charge on driving into urban centres, parking at work and using trunk roads and motorways. Mr Prescott bailed the schemes as a "radical" approach and said the Govern-

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

ment deserved credit for the "unique" decision to allow all the money raised to be used for transport schemes - an idea known as hypothecation.

He said charging systems could be in place within 15 months and that £1bn could be raised annually.

"It's a ground-breaking financial agreement to give local authorities the means to tackle local traffic problems.

"Local authorities in approved pilot schemes will be able to keep all of the money raised to spend on worthwhile local transport improvements - for at least 10 years."

But the consultation document, called *Breaking the Log-jam*, said primary legislation

would include powers to require a "proportion of the revenue to be paid to central Government". The document also made clear that the legislation would "not restrict expenditure entirely to transport-related matters".

Both Mr Prescott and John Reid, the Transport Minister, said councils would retain 100 per cent of the revenue for at least 10 years, and that all the money would go into transport schemes. Dr Reid said the reference to expenditure on non-transport matters related to fresh legislation after 10 years.

The Conservatives said Mr Prescott had failed to deliver on his promises. Tory transport spokesman, Bernard Jenkin, said: "Mr Prescott has constantly claimed to have won the battle with the Treasury. How-

"You cannot deliver 10 tons of groceries using a basket on the front of a bike."

ever the document gives the lie to his claims."

Unveiling the details of the document, Mr Prescott said the proposed charging regime was not compulsory.

The Government's view is that urban road users should either be charged to enter a designated area or for keeping or driving a vehicle within a certain area. The plan calls for parking at offices, factories and warehouses to be charged but rules out charging for non-workplace parking such as at shopping centres.

The Freight Transport Association called on the Government to exclude lorries delivering to town centres. A spokesman said:

"You cannot deliver 10 tons of groceries using a basket on the front of a bike."

Eco-warriors protesting against the building of the Birmingham Northern Relief Road being removed from their roof-top camp by bailiffs yesterday

Mike Sharp



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Human cloning may be tried next year

SCIENTISTS COULD try to create the first human clones as early as next year after yesterday's approval for so-called "therapeutic cloning" by the Government's statutory watchdog on embryo research.

The technique promises to revolutionise medicine with effective treatments for genetic disorders, incurable illnesses such as Parkinson's disease, and certain forms of cancer, but its use is likely to unleash a wave of protest concerning its ethical implications.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, in a joint report with the Human Ge-

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

netics Advisory Commission, has given its blessing to the creation of cloned human embryos to generate tissue for transplant surgery.

In the face of strong opposition from anti-abortion groups, the Government-appointed experts said that therapeutic cloning - where cells are harvested from a cloned embryo that is not allowed to survive for longer than 14 days after fertilisation - is justified on the grounds of the huge medical benefits the technique could

provide. The joint report recommends that the Government should explicitly ban reproductive cloning - where a cloned embryo is implanted into a womb and allowed to develop into a baby - to allay public fears over the creation of cloned adult replicas.

Sir Colin Campbell, chairman of the advisory commission, said: "It is quite clear that human reproductive cloning is unacceptable to a substantial majority of the population. A total ban on its use for any purpose is the obvious and straightforward way of recognising this."

The Department of Health will consider the authority's

recommendations to include two extra categories of research to the existing five allowed under present legislation.

This will allow embryos to be cloned to extract the important embryonic "stem cells" that can be grown in the laboratory into any one of the hundreds of different tissue types of the body.

Such a procedure would generate virtually unlimited supplies of tissue for transplanting into a patient, who would not suffer tissue rejection because the transplants would be genetically identical.

Anne McLaren, a distinguished embryologist and member of the authority, said she would not be surprised if an application for human cloning was made in 1999. "I have thought within a year," she said yesterday.

Austin Smith, director of the Centre for Genome Research at Edinburgh University, is likely to be the first scientist to apply for approval to be the first to create a cloned embryo for tissue transplants.

Dr Smith, who is collaborating with the scientists from the nearby Roslin Institute who cloned Dolly the sheep, has

already submitted an outline of his proposal to the HFEA and is confident he will be given the official go-ahead soon.

Harry Griffin, assistant director of science at the Roslin Institute, welcomed the authority's recommendations:

"We particularly welcome the proposal to extend the purposes for which embryo research can be carried out to include the development of new treatment of damaged tissues or organs," he said.

The joint report resulted from a consultation exercise that began last January when people were invited to submit

their views on cloning. The experts received about 200 responses, of which about 40 per cent came from members of the public, with the rest coming from academics, ethicists, lawyers and industry.

The report says that 80 per cent of those who responded were opposed to reproductive cloning and 23 per cent were against any form of embryo research or manipulation, arguing that the embryo possesses the full moral status of a human being.

Leading article,
Review, page 3

Journalist Winchell tried to set up Sinatra, FBI reveals

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York



The entertainment columnist Walter Winchell (left), who made baseless charges against Sinatra, seen in the main picture (second left) with underworld figures including Carlo Gambino, of the notorious Mob family (second right). The photograph, taken in New York in 1976, was used as evidence at a Mafia trial. AP

IF THERE were any doubts that the life of Frank Sinatra had a murky side, the FBI put them to rest yesterday.

Answering requests from media organisations lodged under the Freedom of Information Act, it released some 1,200 pages of documents about the crooner, spanning several decades.

The compendium, a 10-inch-thick doorstop of fading and heavily annotated papers, reveals a hodgepodge of claims and counter-claims about the singer, who died in May this year.

They range from allegations that Sinatra - whose nicknames included Ol' Blue Eyes and the Chairman of the Board - dodged the draft during the Second World War to details of death threats that were made against him.

There did not appear to be any single bombshell, however, that might stain the legend of Sinatra, who remains one of the foremost icons of American pop and entertainment.

For most of his life the New Jersey-born performer fought innuendo and rumour - and FBI investigation - arising from his involvement in the high-rolling casino world of

Las Vegas and his contacts with the Mafia underworld.

Among Mafia figures whom Sinatra counted as his friends were Sam Giancana, Charles "Lucky" Luciano and Al Capone's cousin Joseph Fischetti.

The ties between the singer and the Mafia first became headline news in 1947, when he attended a lavish party in Cuba in honour of Luiano, who had at that time been deported from the United States.

The FBI said it was releasing all but 25 pages of its files on Sinatra, dating all the way

back to a 1938 mugshot taken when he was arrested on seduction charges. The crooner, agents said, had seen all the material himself after he had filed his own request for access to them in 1979 and 1980.

Among the papers yesterday was the disclosure that the FBI received tip-offs from the late enterprising columnist Walter Winchell. In 1944 Winchell told agents about alleged death threats to a baby of the singer. In the same year he said Sinatra had paid \$40,000 for a government classification to avoid being drafted.

There are serial documents

ed to serve in the war. The FBI investigated but found the charges to be baseless.

A memorandum dated 1971 and covered with pencil marks and underlinings claims that Sinatra was part of an alleged conspiracy to defraud \$100,000 from a stockbroker named Ronald Alpert. Among others listed as part of the plot are several well-known former crime figures, including Angelo Dellacroce, Carlo Gambino, of the infamous New York Gambino Mob family, and Giuseppe "Joe" Gallo.

There are serial documents

describing in the dry language of law-enforcement agents, occasions when Sinatra had been the target both of death threats and extortion schemes. There are FBI memos, for example, on a report of a 1966 bomb threat against him in Miami Beach as well as a 1969 threat in which Sinatra was given the option of facing death or donating \$2m to the Vatican.

The sender of that letter was not prosecuted but dispatched by federal agents for psychiatric treatment. Included in the files is a hand-written letter from a self-

described psychic claiming that the singer was a political subversive bent on dividing the United States "West against East, East against West".

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from a field agent in Detroit, however, says that Sinatra "was never active in the CP or related front-group activities in the state of Michigan".

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Right to roam delayed until Lords reform

THE GOVERNMENT is to grant walkers legal rights of access to private land, but intends to delay the move until after the reform of the House of Lords.

Senior ministers have decided that the Government would not succeed until after the hereditary peers - including many of Britain's biggest owners of moorland and heath - have been removed from the Upper House.

"We will need some legal underpinning. But we won't be able to start until the Lords is reformed," said a source.

The delay could mean putting off action until after the general election, disappointing Labour voters who have been campaigning for the right to roam. Earlier this year the Government said it would consider working for improved access through voluntary agreements, if they could be shown to be satisfactory.

In response, the Country Landowners' Association set up an access register and posted it on the Internet to show the number of sites where walkers are welcomed. At the start of this month more than 2,000 sites were represented, the CLA said, representing over a

BY COLIN BROWN,
PAUL WAUGH AND
MICHAEL MCCARTHY

a speech to the Countryside Commission to state that a final decision on the right to roam will be announced in the next few weeks.

Gillian Shepherd, the Conservative environment spokeswoman, yesterday backed calls for some form of legislation, but accused Mr Meacher of being motivated by old fashioned "class warfare" over the issue.

Many Labour MPs were disappointed by the Government's voluntary approach, after the party's clear pre-election commitment to legislate for the right to roam. At a Ramblers' Association rally in 1996, Frank Dobson, then Labour environment spokesman, said: "The next Labour government will make the right to roam a legal reality. We will change the law to give people that right."

Tony Blair followed this up with a personal pledge, in a letter to the Ramblers' David Beeskin later that year, in which he said: "As Frank Dobson pointed out in his speech, a Labour government will give people a right to roam, which will be coupled with a duty to respect crops, livestock and valuable habitats."

Michael Meacher, the Environment minister, will today use

photographers at an agricultural fair, pressing a hot burger on his daughter Cordelia.

The Southwood report, published in February 1998, had suggested such a ban on offals for humans because those would be the most infectious parts of cattle incubating the disease.

The previous ministerial

team, including John MacGregor, had announced that such a ban would be implemented.

Mr Gummer said that despite the rising numbers of BSE cases - then nearly 5,000 annually - and although it was his job to implement the legislation, he did not feel a sense of urgency. He said: "The offal ban

had not been asked for. On the other hand it was something we had determined to do."

He added that he did not then believe the ban was "essential for public health" and said that when he took over his ministerial position many local authorities whom he had to consult were on summer holiday.

Asked if he might have moved quicker if he thought there was a serious risk to public health he said: "All I can say is that was not put to me. In fact the opposite was put to me."

But Mr Gummer agreed that if legislation was seen as urgent there was often room to "find a way through". In fact, the offal

ban was not introduced until November 1989 - 10 months after the Southwood report suggested it.

In the time Mr Gummer was at Maff, BSE was first identified and the epidemic peaked. But the first cases in humans, as CJD, were only recognised three years later.

Actress Billie Whitelaw preparing to present awards at the Carlton Women in Film and TV ceremony at the Dorchester Hotel in London yesterday

Neville Elder

Disgraced Newcastle duo return

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

current season it removed Kenny Dalglish as manager, replacing him with Ruud Gullit.

Since its flotation at a share price of 135p, Newcastle shares have steadily lost ground, although they have recently been lifted by hopes that the club might be taken over by a media group. Yesterday, the shares slipped 3p to close at 94p.

The latest row follows moves by Mr Shepherd and Mr Hall to re-elect themselves to the board of Newcastle United Plc, the holding company for the football club. The two men were forced to resign in disgrace in March, after they were exposed in the *News of the World* mocking the club's fans and insulting the players.

Mr Cassidy, Newcastle's chairman, and two non-executive directors resigned after the board voted by a majority of four to three to reappoint the duo. BT Alex Brown, the City firm that acts as Newcastle's stockbroker, also stepped down.

The boardroom exodus casts doubt over Newcastle's status as a publicly listed company. The club has been in an almost permanent crisis since it floated on the stock market two years ago. During that time, nearly all the original board members have left the company.

"Minority shareholders must be punch drunk by now," said Nick Batram, a football analyst at City stockbrokers Greig Middleton. "It comes as no surprise. There have been more transfers on the board than on the playing squad."

The club has struggled on the pitch, finishing in the bottom half of the Premier League last season and losing the FA Cup Final. At the start of the



Gummer unrepentant on feeding daughter a hamburger

THE FORMER minister who fed his six-year-old daughter a hamburger to promote a government line that "beef is safe" expressed no regret yesterday, saying that he was not then aware of any health risks from eating cattle offal.

John Gummer, who held office at the Ministry of Agricul-

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

ture, Fisheries and Food (Maff) from September 1985 to May 1993 - including a promotion in 1989 - told the BSE inquiry yesterday that in 1990 he had not heard any scientific evidence to back a ban on offal such as the

spinal cord and gut. "In matters as important as these it is essential to have a personal benchmark to be applied to decisions wherever appropriate. In such circumstances I applied the test: 'Would I be entirely happy for my children to eat this?'" Mr Gummer said.

So in 1990 he posed for

photographers at an agricultural fair, pressing a hot burger on his daughter Cordelia.

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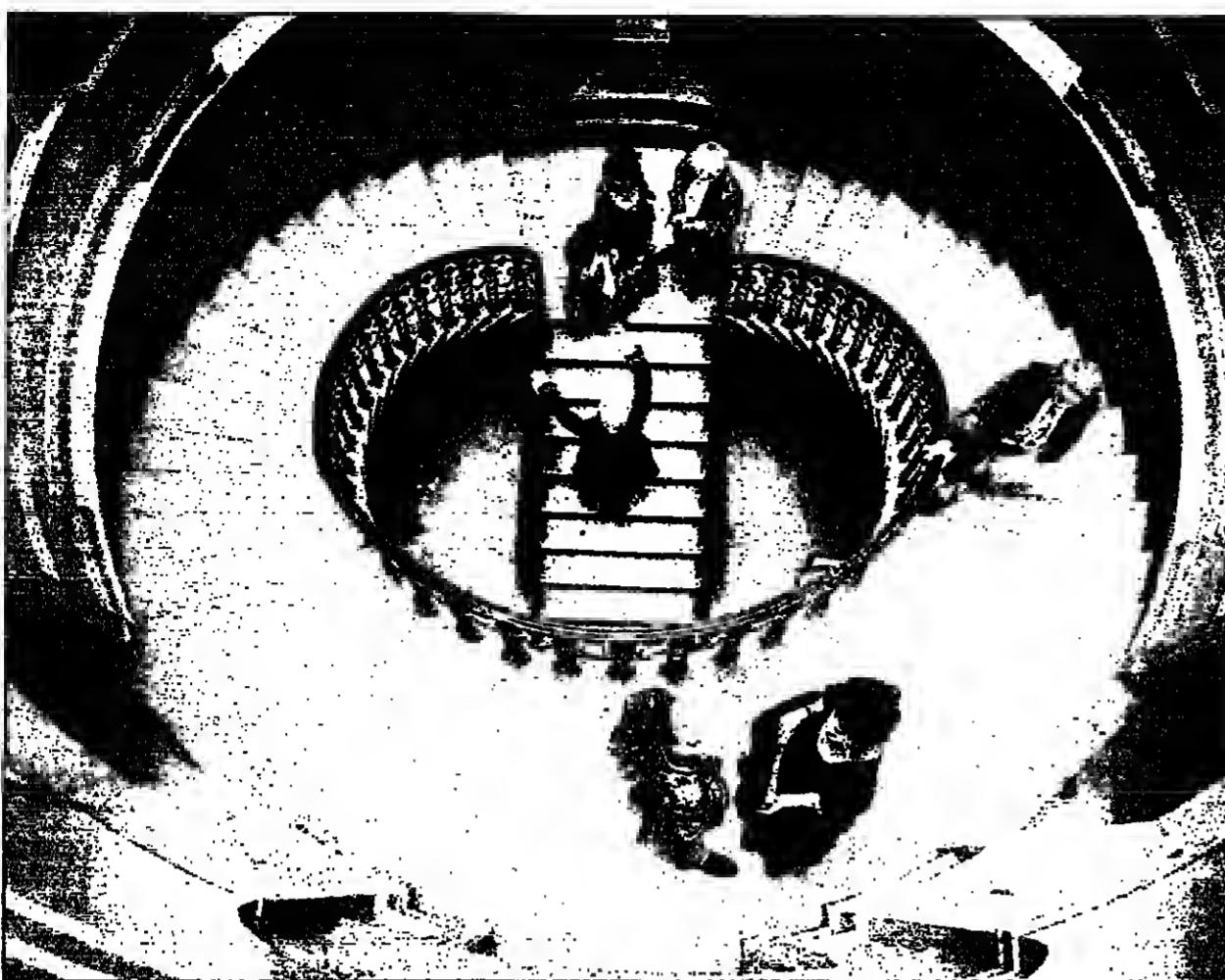
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Actors in 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses' costumes at a party last night at Home House, London, to raise money for the new RSC Acting Fund; the event also marked the opening of the 18th-century house as a private club Tom Pilston

Universities get £776m windfall

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

en access to under-represented social groups."

The Government confirmed that colleges at Oxford and Cambridge universities will lose around a third of the value of the extra grants they receive to support the tutorial system and college facilities.

The £35m they receive will be incorporated over 10 years into the two universities' central grants. But the Government expects the universities to make up the loss by winning more money from increased research funding announced earlier this year.

Tom Wilson, head of the universities' department at the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, said: "Today's announcement is a breakthrough for the new universities who take the lion's share of part-time and access students."

"They have traditionally played an important part in the education and training of working class students. This announcement marks a new era of genuinely equal opportunities for all."

But the Liberal Democrats said the new funds fell well short of the amount recommended by Lord Dearing in his report, which recommended tuition fees.

Phil Willis, the party's higher education spokesman, said: "The resources do little more than meet the additional cost of 100,000 extra students by the year 2002, estimated at £400m."

IN BRIEF

Houseboat blast kills two

TWO PEOPLE died and a third was injured yesterday when an explosion destroyed a barge thought to be used as a houseboat on the river Penryn in the Cornish town. Two bodies were recovered from the water. A 16-year-old girl with minor injuries was taken to Treliske Hospital in Truro. Police said the blast could have been caused by gas.

Sunshine holidays firm collapses

A TOUR operator specialising in sunshine breaks worldwide ceased trading yesterday, but UK travellers currently abroad will be able to carry on with their holidays. Also, those booked with London-based Frequent Guide company, which was licensed to carry more than 80,000 passengers a year, will get their money back.

Cocaine smuggled in earthmover

COCAINE WITH A STREET VALUE OF AROUND £50m was found stashed inside an earthmover by Customs officials, it was revealed yesterday. The drugs were hidden in the boom arm of the vehicle, which arrived at Felixstowe from South America. Three Dutch nationals were later arrested.

Hewitt sues over Diana's letters

JAMES HEWITT has issued a writ against solicitors Lawrence Graham over letters written to him by Diana, Princess of Wales. In the writ, issued at the High Court yesterday, Mr Hewitt, who had an affair with the princess, claims he has been "wrongfully deprived" of the letters, currently in the hands of solicitors acting for her estate.

KEN LIVINGSTONE

Given Hague's lack of unpleasant character traits, it's hard to work out why his ratings are so bad

IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

Meningitis team to test vaccine

BRITISH SCIENTISTS have flown to Cuba to study a vaccine that has wiped out meningitis on the island. They hope it could help doctors in this country to tackle the disease.

The Caribbean island was ravaged by a series of meningococcal epidemics in the Seventies and Eighties and as a result scientists there developed a vaccine to prevent the strain of meningitis B responsible for the outbreaks.

The rate of meningitis in Cuba is now a tenth of that in Britain with only 0.3 cases per 100,000 population. During the epidemics, however, 250 people per year were dying in a population of 11 million.

"Many children and young adults lost their lives and others were made severely ill," said Lourdes Alisia Diaz, scientific adviser at the Cuban Embassy.

"A vaccine was developed

ber of cases since the Second World War.

The scientists in Cuba, whose work will be featured in BBC1's *Tomorrow's World* this evening, were able to develop a vaccine because the isolated island only had one strain of meningitis B. There are more than a dozen strains of meningitis B in this country, meaning that the vaccine could not be used here in its present state.

Trials in Brazil and Iceland of the vaccine have not shown the same success because of this.

Researchers from Imperial College, London, have gone to Cuba to see if the vaccine can be developed to combat meningitis in this country. Every year 250 people in Britain die from the disease, which strikes quickly. Cases have doubled over the past 10 years although there is no known explanation for this.

and 1997 saw the highest num-

nated to see if it kills the Cuban bacteria and if it can be used to kill other meningitis bacteria.

"We hope that this research project will provide vital clues which will enable scientists to develop a vaccine against B strain, which accounts for about 60 per cent of cases in Britain."

The foundation launched a 24-hour helpline yesterday for anyone with a suspected case of meningitis or septicemia, which the bacteria also cause.

"In many cases last year parents found out too late that a child or teenager was seriously ill," a spokeswoman for the foundation said. "The symptoms are very difficult to diagnose as they are similar to flu, but people have to trust their instincts and seek medical help if they feel it is something more serious."

■ Freephone meningitis helpline (24 hours): 0808 800 3344



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Freudian-slip funsters find asylum in chamber of errors

"MENTAL ILLNESS is as common as asthma," announced Frank Dobson yesterday. "It affects as many as one in six adults at any one time." There were about a hundred MPs in the chamber when he said this, which suggested 16 or 17 of his colleagues might be showing signs of mild delusion if the assembly were genuinely representative of the nation at large. But they are not – anything, the ratio in Parliament is likely to be rather higher than the general population, given the established connection between high achievement and mental fragility. The absent villain here was Care in the Community, which Mr Dobson had come to pitch into a pan-

per's grave, but Honourable Members have long been exempt from such programmes. Outside of an election year, they know they won't find themselves turned out on to the streets, where they might trouble the public by shouting aggressive questions about fiscal autonomy for the Scottish parliament. They already have their asylum, a Victorian Gothic pile in which they can pursue their obsessions protected by a diligent and caring staff; Betty Boothroyd may be strict but she is no Nurse Ratched and only waves the strait-jackets when other therapeutic interventions have failed.

THE SKETCH
THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

to convey contempt. On the Tory benches, John Bercow was twitching and jerking like a had case of

shell shock, while I noticed also that Dr Liam Fox, up against Donald Dewar in Scottish questions, had written his notes in green ink, often accepted as an unambiguous indicator of mental disturbance.

But for all these symptoms there were also innocent explanations. Psychoanalytic approaches are no more successful either, given that politicians are subject to inhibitions over and above those felt by the rest of us. Freudian slips, for instance, are unlikely to open a window on the inner psyche of a politician, only into the cavity wall between public presentation and private opinion. Mr Dobson, a decent and diligent min-

ister, is rather prone to these involuntary revelations – a couple of weeks ago, discussing pay rates in the NHS, he told the House "we all know that pay increases have to be avoidable – er – affordable". Yesterday he thanked Nicholas Winterton for welcoming his statement, saying he had been "more supportive than the present government um – than the previous one". Ann Widdecombe had earlier sought a guarantee that there would be "no enforced medication of parents – I mean patients". This seemed more promising as a diagnostic clue, after references to "inappropriate discharges" and a

particular interest in closing mixed wards in mental hospitals. Does she secretly dream of dosing the water with bromide and putting an end to all inappropriate discharges, inside the NHS and out? Well, probably not – if she suffers from neurosis it is likely to be only that occupational disease of adversary politics, a phobia of admitting the other side have done something sensible. Still, it is very confusing. One can only sympathise with the journalist overheard approaching a member of Mr Dobson's team and asking for help – "This mental health statement," he said wistfully, "any chance of an idiot's guide?"

Psychopaths to be locked up for safety

MENTAL HEALTH
By GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

PLANS TO lock up psychopaths who pose a risk to the public were announced by the Secretary of State for Health yesterday in wide-ranging changes to mental health services.

In a Commons statement, Frank Dobson said an extra £700m would be invested over three years to create a system that was "safe and sound for both patients and the public".

Reiterating his belief that care in the community had failed, Mr Dobson said changes to the system were urgent and necessary. "Its failure to deal effectively with the most severe cases has dealt a blow to all mental health efforts and lost the confidence of the public."

Mr Dobson told MPs that the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and he were looking at plans to create a new form of "renewable detention" for people with severe personality disorders who were thought to pose a grave risk to the public.

At present the Mental Health Act covers only those with "treatable" conditions.

If the new plans are adopted, this category would cover people such as Michael Stone, who was convicted of murdering Lin and Megan Russell and who suffers from an untreatable psychopathic disorder.

Mr Dobson said renewable detention raised all sorts of ethical and practical problems. "But we are convinced the safety of the public must be the prime concern," he added. A na-



Dobson: Public safety was the biggest concern

because it isn't coping with the small minority of mentally ill people who are a nuisance or a danger to both themselves and others".

But the Conservative Health spokeswoman, Ann Widdecombe, told MPs: "The view of the profession is that care in the community has been an overwhelming success, and it is only a small number of inappropriate discharges that have caused quite justifiable concern amongst the public."

She told Mr Dobson that a major factor in patients' defaulting on medication was the rationing of the latest anti-psychotic drugs.

Simon Hughes, for the Liberal Democrats, urged the Government to put more money into mental health care. "It would be better as a policy not to be tough on care in the community but to be tough in providing resources for care in the community," he said.

A review of mental health legislation in Scotland was also announced by the Scottish health minister, Sam Galbraith, to report back by summer 2000.

Mental health charities, the British Medical Association and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders broadly welcomed Mr Dobson's announcement.

But Cliff Prior, the chief executive of the National Schizophrenia Society, said the proposed reforms were not backed by enough money, describing them as "the right menu but in small portions".

The minister said the plans were "far-reaching improvements" to a system that had "suffered from ineffective practices, an outdated legal framework and lack of resources".

He said confidence in the service was "in crisis – mainly

Leading article, Review, page 3



The Conservative leader, William Hague, visiting the Crisis cold-weather shelter for the homeless in Southwark, south London, yesterday
Frank Barrett

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Wine drinking

THE GOVERNMENT has spent £12,604 on wine, with the average bottle costing £11.72 since coming to power last May. Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett disclosed.

Good causes

THE AMOUNT of National Lottery money going to good causes has reached £6.6m. Sports minister Tony Banks said.

Woodlands

A NEW set of priorities for managing England's woodlands was published yesterday. Agriculture minister Elliot Morley said.

INSURANCE

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

Shadow health secretary said the Government was determined to "penalise motorists" after parallel rises in fuel and vehicle excise duties.

Challenging Mr Dobson over who would pay for uninsured motorists, she added: "This legislation will be a double-whammy for everyone who is prudent enough to take out a motor insurance because as law-abiding citizens they will be charged twice."

Mr Dobson insisted the charges were not new because insurers had been liable since 1990 and the current collection system was a "shambles".

"We are just making sure

that in future NHS hospitals get the money to which they have been entitled for the last 68 years."

The switch to a central "recovery unit" to collect the money direct from insurance companies could net up to £165m for hospitals in Britain, the Health Secretary claimed.

"The new scheme will bring order out of chaos. It will not place a large burden on motorists or insurers."

"It is a sensible, practical measure that will raise much needed extra funds for hospitals in every part of the country," he added.

Mr Dobson said the NHS was losing substantial amounts of money because the present system for collecting the

charges, combining "minimal income with maximum inconvenience", had failed.

Last year it raised just £16m, with NHS staff forced to ask injured motorists for an emergency treatment fee in the aftermath of a crash.

Under the Bill, the right of NHS hospitals to levy an emergency fee will be abolished and a tariff of charges will be introduced instead for the recovery unit to call up in the case of an accident and pursue with insurers.

There will be a flat rate of £354 for those who did not need to stay in hospital, and a daily charge for those needing to stay in hospital of £455, with a maximum ceiling in any one case of £10,000.

Universities

MORE ENGLISH students have accepted places to study at Scottish universities despite introduction of tuition fees. Scottish minister Helen Liddell said: "Seven per cent more English students have accepted places at Scottish universities this year compared with last year which I think gives the lie to some of the scaremongering that we heard some months ago," she said.

Justice Bill

GEOFF HOON, minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, admitted he was "slightly surprised" barristers had raised few objections to proposals to make it easier for solicitors and legal executives to work as advocates in court. The minister said they broadly

THE HOUSE

supported the forthcoming Access to Justice Bill.

Service life

MARRIAGE BREAKDOWNS and relationship problems are rife for young servicemen because of operations and training. Tony peer Earl Attlee said.

Devolution

THERE IS no "plot" to weaken Scottish devolution after a Civil Service memo showed Whitehall wanted to keep public funds that could be handed to the Edinburgh

Parliament, Scottish Office minister Calum MacDonald said.

Today's business

COMMONS MEETS at 9.30am for backbench debates on: Road traffic reductions; north-west regeneration; predict and provide policy in housing projections; retail food sector; case of Major Eric Joyce. At 2.30pm: Welsh questions. At 3pm: questions to the Prime Minister, followed by debates initiated by Tories on decommissioning and release of prisoners in Northern Ireland; and tax. Debate on Section 151 of the Finance Act 1998, opened by Stephen Byers.

Lords debates: The agriculture industry; implications of advances in medical science on the NHS; organophosphate sheep dips.

For some the war in the Far East was over in August 1945.
For others the battle still goes on.

This week marks the 57th anniversary of Pearl Harbour. The Japanese authorities have yet to make any meaningful restitution or apology for the terrible suffering endured by thousands of Allied servicemen and women, and civilians of all ages, who were imprisoned and interned between the attack on Pearl Harbour and the surrender in Tokyo Bay in August 1945.

This advertisement has been paid for by anonymous supporters of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, Oriel House, Church Green, Witney, Oxon, and the Association of British Civilian Internees, Far East Region, Northampton Lodge, Northampton, Hampshire.

With each day that passes the number of survivors becomes fewer. Before their lives fade into lonely and bitter memory, this is an appeal for people in Britain to show their deep feelings of dissatisfaction with the stance of the Japanese authorities and deliver a clear message. Send a Christmas card to the Japanese Ambassador, 101 Piccadilly, London W1V 9FN, as a peaceful signal of solidarity with this just cause.

This is 'people POWER'
- make it work!

If you feel as we do that this is a matter that must reach a fair and just conclusion, and very soon, please also write to Robin Cook, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH.

مكتبة من الأرشيف

South Bank buildings to be razed and rebuilt

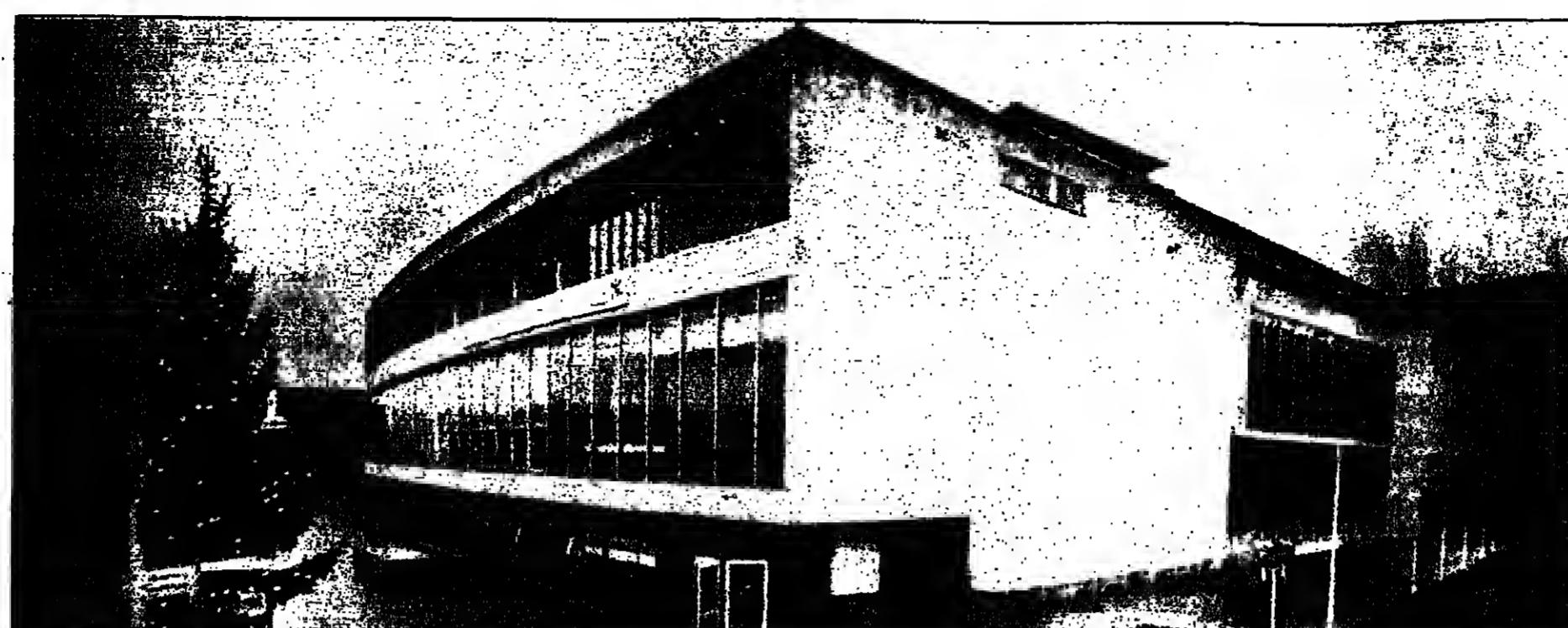
By KATE WATSON-SMYTH

MUCH OF the forbidding concrete jungle that is the South Bank arts complex in London will be torn down and replaced with new galleries, concert halls and cinemas.

The Royal Festival Hall, scene of the Government's ecstatic celebrations after the general election, remains and will be restored and expanded. But the Hayward Gallery, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Purcell Room and the concrete walkways connecting them will be demolished and rebuilt further west.

The scheme, somewhat less grandioses than the architect Richard Rogers' original plan for a wavy glass roof covering the entire centre, was announced yesterday by Elliott Bernerd, the chairman of the complex. A new film complex will be built on the site, which will house the National Film Centre, the Museum of the Moving Image, currently under Waterloo Bridge, and the headquarters of the British Film Institute.

A building will be positioned on the Hungerford car park site overlooking Jubilee Gardens and the arches under Hungerford and Waterloo



A Christmas tree outside the Royal Festival Hall yesterday. The South Bank Centre faces a massive programme of rebuilding, starting in 2001

Neville Elder

Bridges will be opened up to improve access. Mr Bernerd said:

"We want to see the Royal Festival Hall not only restored but supported by properly equipped new arts buildings and well-designed, user-

friendly open spaces. Our objective is to keep our arts buildings open during the millennium celebrations and then to implement our strategy in a phased way, beginning construction in 2001."

Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, said the new proposals were "very dynamic" and Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman of English Heritage, said the regeneration would transform the

"most important site in the heart of London" into a world-class arts complex.

Trevor Nunn, director of the National Theatre, said the regeneration would improve access from Waterloo rail station and

make the South Bank more accessible to tourists and the local community.

Although everyone seemed happy with the plans yesterday, the regeneration scheme has been the cause of much bit-

cause of a lack of Lottery money, Sir Brian Corby resigned as chairman of the centre's board.

Sir Brian was replaced by Mr Bernerd, a property developer, who said at the time that he was "emotionally and aesthetically committed" to Lord Rogers' design.

But his commitment was not enough to save the wavy glass roof.

A spokesman for the South Bank Centre said yesterday: "We were looking for something that we could phase in over a period of time, which would be more practical and help with costs, but the glass roof would have had to be constructed in one go and it was not possible. This scheme is just as ambitious and fits in well with the redevelopment all along the river."

No details on funding were available yesterday but the Arts Council has promised up to £20m of Lottery money, the Heritage Lottery Fund is said to have pledged a further £20m and the publisher Lord Hanley is putting up £19m.

A master planner for the complex will be appointed early in the new year and competitions will be held for each element of the new strategy.

Florists guilty of cemetery thefts

By STEPHEN MEREDITH

A FLORIST collapsed in court yesterday when he was found guilty of stealing flowers from a cemetery.

David Scott, 61, and his wife Mary, 45, of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, were convicted of four charges of taking floral tributes from the garden of remembrance at Preston cemetery in North Shields between February and April this year.

Judge Denis Orde told them at Durham Crown Court: "You are a couple of grave robbers who committed a very shabby, heartless piece of stealing. Nobody with an ounce of decency would do what you did."

Judge Orde had to leave court for 10 minutes while Scott tried to compose himself for sentencing.

Scott shook as Judge Orde sentenced them both to a nine-month prison sentence, suspended for two years. They were each ordered to pay £500 in prosecution costs.

After the case Emma Dorn, 21, of North Shields, the granddaughter of Ethel Houston, whose floral tributes were stolen by the Scotts, said: "It was absolutely shocking when we found out. I think they're sick individuals."

The thefts first came to light on 6 April when the cemetery's caretaker, Miriam McCann, noticed a woman in the garden of remembrance. She approached and saw Mrs Scott carrying floral tributes out of the garden. She put them down before leaving. Mr Scott was seen to be "keeping watch", Brian Forster for the prosecution, told the court.

Police later found laurel

leaves and a small bouquet of flowers in the Scotts' car.

The couple were forced to sell their business and now rely on invalidity benefit.

The judge said: "It was a crime of greed - there's no other way of describing it." He had said earlier that the crimes were of the same principle as "lifting the lid off a coffin".

Pub footballers killed in crash

By ESTHER LEACHE

FIVE MEMBERS of a pub football team died and 13 other men were injured when their minibus and a lorry collided. The team, from the Stamford Arms, Groby, near Leicester, was heading for a night out when the crash happened in freezing fog, police said.

Four men died at the scene of the crash, on the A42 near Measham, at 8.15pm on Monday. A fifth victim died in hospital. One other person was in a "very serious" condition last night and 12 other men in the minibus were also hurt. Five of the team were treated for minor injuries and went home.

A service engineer, Simon Barnard, who drove near the

minibus, said: "It was like a scrap- yard ... with twisted metal everywhere. It's a very busy, overcrowded road and I'm not surprised there was a crash there."

Both vehicles were thought to have been travelling in the same direction. Visibility was about 150 yards when fog descended.

Police named the dead men as: Stephen Curtis, 28, from Newtown Linford; Paul Thompson, 22, from Groby; Stephen Parker, 21, from Groby; Panayi Kouroushi, 30, from Groby; and Jeremy Goodhall, 30, from Leicester Forest East.



Card reproduced courtesy of Robot Design

EVERYONE RESPONDS TO A CARD

Discrimination: Code of practice changed as report shows blacks are five times more likely than whites to be stopped

Figures prove harassment of young blacks

BLACK PEOPLE are five times more likely than whites to be stopped and searched and six times more likely to be sent to prison, according to a Home Office report issued yesterday.

The findings prompted the Home Office minister, Paul Boateng, to issue a revised code of practice on stop-and-search policies, which will oblige police forces to take greater action to monitor and combat discrimination.

The new report identified the Hertfordshire, Leicestershire and Thames Valley forces as having the largest discrepancies between the treatment of black and white people. In these forces, black people were seven times more likely than whites to be stopped and searched or arrested.

Black people were most likely to be stopped and searched in the Metropolitan police area, where the practice is more widely used than in other areas. The Met stopped 181 per 1,000 of the black population, compared with 38 per 1,000 whites.

make up only 2 per cent of the population.

Asians, who form 3 per cent of the general population were also over-represented, making up 5 per cent of those stopped.

Of the 2 million people arrested during the survey period, 7 per cent were black. In prisons, 12 per cent of male prisoners and 20 per cent of females were black.

Paul Cavadias, director of policy at the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said: "No one can seriously argue that black people are six times more likely to commit crime than white people."

"The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that black people who offend are more likely to end up in prison than comparable white offenders."

Homicide detection statistics also showed worrying ethnic variations. In 40 per cent of homicides where the victim was black, the police failed to find a suspect, compared with only 10 per cent of cases where the victim was white.

"If you stop and search... in an area, crime goes up, and it goes up against everyone – black, white, Asian, Afro-Caribbean, Somalian..."

The Home Office report, *Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System*, found that 11 per cent of the million people stopped and searched by the police last year were black, despite the fact that black people

so used to being stopped by the police that the experiences often prompt a kind of gallows humour, as well as anger.

For black males being stopped by the police is a rite-of-passage experience, akin to getting your heart broken for the first time.

As a boy I remember hearing my uncles, (both professional footballers that were demi-gods to me) talk about being hassled by the police. My

uncle David drove a TVR sports car and was often stopped. On one occasion he was stopped outside his grandmother's home. I recall watching from the house as he explained to the officer that, "yes, this was his car" and that he did have the documents inside.

My 'first time' took place when I was 15. Returning from school with my guitar I was stopped by two officers. They proceeded to search me, my

guitar case and my guitar before thanking me and driving away. They never explained why they had stopped me.

The real problem is that the experience of being stopped, like the inability to hail a black cab or to sail past customs officials, has become the norm for blacks. And the irony is that the only one of my six brothers and sisters who has spent any significant time in a police station is paid to do so.

Alister Morgan, a writer for "The Independent", finds that being stopped by police is a fact of life

Tom Pilston

'Yes, officer, this is my own vehicle'

BY ALISTER MORGAN

TRAVELLING IN a car with my sister, we were pulled over on Brixton Hill, south London, by a police vehicle. Barring the issue of colour, we couldn't see any reason why we should have been stopped and began to joke about the situation.

A police officer approached our car to find us laughing; he seemed perturbed that we were not appreciating the gravity of the situation. Before he could speak my sister pulled out

so used to being stopped by the police that the experiences often prompt a kind of gallows humour, as well as anger.

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TO THE HOME SECRETARY

Dear Home Secretary,

We, the undersigned, urge you to allow the full legal process of the extradition of General Augusto Pinochet to proceed.

The Law Lords have found that Pinochet, as an ex-head of state, has no immunity from prosecution for crimes against humanity. This is not just a Chilean issue - both in principle and because of crimes against many nationals in a number of countries. The UN Convention against Torture, ratified by the UK Government, includes the obligation to ensure that those charged with this unspeakable crime cannot escape justice. This provided the basis for the Law Lords historic ruling to allow extradition to proceed. It falls to you to decide whether to heed the voice of humanity - now given legal form - or to collude with those who plead the privilege of high office.

Relatives of the disappeared live among us. During and after September 11, 1973, their loved ones were lost to them. Hopes that they lived faded only slowly in the face of the deliberate indifference of Pinochet's regime. Many who protested were forced into exile and found asylum here. Their loved ones have never been accounted for. The families continue to live in grief without closure. We join them in asking you to ensure that the General answers legally for his deeds.

Pinochet supporters are misguided if they point to the amnesties of the Northern Ireland peace process. For in these cases guilt was established before amnesty was considered.

Despite the legal arguments, we understand you are under pressure from the Chilean military, Pinochet's American allies and the arms industry. They may seek to break your moral resolve and persuade you to send Pinochet back rather than allow extradition to proceed. If you give way to these pressures you will defy the principles of international human rights and it will be a further act of cruelty for the victims of the Chilean experience.

Please do not permit Pinochet to escape the due process of the Law.

Gwen Adshead	Beatrix Campbell	Vicki Fletcher	Anthony Holden	John Lloyd	J. & B. Neidhardt	Tania Rose	Nina Temple
Ines Aguirre	Barbara Cantor	Paul Foot	Gillian Home	Toby Long	Frances Nicholson	David Rosenberg	Ray Thomas
Lisa Appignanesi	Prof. Geoffrey Cantor	Dorn Ford	Darcus Howe	Ricky Lowes	Patsy Nightingale	Hamish Ross	Stephen Thomas
S. Armstrong	Prof. Lionel Caplan	Sheila Forman	Susie Howells	Peter Luff	Timothy Nunn	Sheila Rowbotham	Emma Thompson
Giampaolo D'Alessandro	Prof. Pat Caplan	Antonia Fraser	Dr. John Hurley	Ian MacDarmid	Sabeen Obaidullah	Salman Rushdie	Peter Thornton DC
Geoff Andrews	Moira Carr	Rob Freer	Ursula Huws	Tom Mackinnon	Kate O'Malley	Mary Ryan	Marie-Elena Toledo de Burrell
Peter Archar	Sherman Carroll	Catalina Gabanyi	Jemma Ivens	Paul Mackney	Susie Orbach	Charles Salter	Sir Cyn Townsend
Raul Arellano	Simon Carruth	Peter Gabriel	Amanda Jeffries	P.J. Manasseh	Paul Orme	Rachel Sanger	Stuart Turner
Timothy Garton Ash	Greg Chamberlain	Dr. Katy Gardner	Nicolas Jacobs	Michael Mansfield QC	Ursula Owen	Naomi Sargent	Andy Unger
Cesca Ashburner	Nadim Chaudhry	Ashish Ghadiali	Mel James	Hermes Marangos	Roger Pannone	Maria Saro-Wiwa	Christine Usher
Prof. M. Ashburner	Maurice Crichton	Nicholas Gillett	Rebecca Johnson	Rabbi Rodney Mariner	Jane Parker	John Saville	Ayesha Usmani
David Aukin	Louise Christian	David Gilmore	Judith Jones	Betty Mathews	Dr. Michael Parsons	Natalia Schiffrin	Geraldine van Bueren
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Joe Ball	Nick Cole	Mama Glyn	Malcolm Katz	John McCarthy	Mike Phillips	Erica Segre	John Wadham
Helen Bamber	Lord Coleridge	Joanna Glynn	Julie Kavanagh	Andy McEntee	Harold Pinter	Jane Shulice	Liz Wager
Julia Bard	Anna Collard	Steve Glynn	Jackie Kay	Scarlett McGwire	Emma Playfair	Gerald Sharnash	Hilary Wainwright
Jon Barnes	Dr. Marcela Contreras	GMB Members at ASLEF	Rona Keen	Fiona McKay	David Plumb	Prof. Dinah Shelton	Susanne Walley
Anthony Barnett	Sarah Cooke	Mathew Goodsell	Helena Kennedy, QC	Simon McKeown	Jane Powell	Prof. A. Showstack Sassoon	Jane P. Ward
Michele Barrons	Daniel Crowley	Tim Gossill	Bruce Kent	Caroline Michel	Dr. C. Pougourides	Clifford Singer	Maurice Ward
Rosemary Bechler	Eleni Cubitt	Clare Gordon	Dominic Keown	Lady Tamara Mitford	Rod Prince	Gillian Slovo	Marina Warner
Prof. Stafford Beer	Dr. Robyn Dasey	Dave & Flora Greenlaw	Andy Kershaw	Hazel Mills	Alastair Rae	Justin Small	John Warry
Neil Belton	Kevin Davey	Wesley Gryk	Jean Khalfa	Louise Mock	Louise Rands Silva	Amahl Smith	Stuart Weir
Carol Berwick	Bryn Davies	The Earl of Haddington	Dr. Steve Kibble	Fiona Molison	David Ransom	Anne Smith	Timberlake Wertenbaker
Rodney Bickerstaff	Gareth Davies	Dr. Peter Hall	Francesca Khug	Caroline Moorehead	Lynn Rees	Breda Smith	Gerard West
Ann Black	Jessica Davies	Bernie Hamilton	Bernard Knight	Diana Morant	Wynn L. Rees	Denis Smith	Francis Wheen
Robin Blackburn	Andy de la Tour	Malcolm Harper	Mark Kobayashi-Hillary	Rabbi Ian Morris	Lorna Reith	Leonard Smith	Gordon Wills
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Libby Bower	William Dismington	Cate Haste	Tahera Ladak	Steve Mumby	M.D. Rix	Philip Spender	Christian Wolmar
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Strange case of 'Mossad agents'

OUTSIDE THE window yesterday, police sirens wailed and black-clad policemen with sub-machine-guns surrounded the prison van. We, of course, were all waiting for the boys from Mossad to appear at the Larnaca assizes.

A tired old man was selling scratchcards to Cypriot lawyers. Then a red-haired lady in a faded leather jacket and shiny black leather trousers took her stand in the box for the accused. She looked an unlikely candidate for spying, we thought. Her lawyer sought a remand while Judge Akiis Hadjichambis shouted angrily at the journalists pushing through the door.

"What's all that noise about?" he demanded. Poor Dora Droushiotou had never expected this kind of attention. Cameramen, photographers, Israeli journalists – who had hired a private aircraft to bring them in from Tel Aviv – poured into the court. Then it was agreed. The lady could have a remand. "This isn't the spying case – it's not serious," one of the lawyers muttered to us. "She is only charged with hiring someone to kill her husband."

But when the lads we had been waiting for turned up, they, too, looked unlikely spooks. Udi Hargov and Igal Damary were still wearing the zip-up jackets they had on when they made their first court appearance last month. Unshaven – one of them was in jeans, the other in corduroys – they both wore spectacles and were thin, rather small men. The charges against them –

BY ROBERT FISK
in Larnaca

that they were spying, with sophisticated technology, on Greek Cypriot military installations – seemed almost preposterous. They entered no plea, but how could anyone think these two were professional secret agents for Israel?

The Cypriot press have already revealed that they rented a flat next to a fish restaurant in the seaside village of Zyggi – site of a proposed new naval base – but never visited the café and didn't bother to say good morning to the owner. So the proprietor had gone to the police to tell them there was something distinctly fishy about his two uncommunicative neighbours.

According to police officers, they had been found with radio telephony equipment, radar scanners and mobile phones, and they had watched convoys of the Greek Cypriot National Guard driving past the restaurant. Reports said that the Cyprus "anti-terrorist" squad had traced their most recent calls – between 15 October and 6 November – to numbers in Tel Aviv that belonged to the "Israeli Intelligence Institute". Other calls had been made to London.

On an island where local journalists think nothing of discussing cases before evidence is given in court, there has been no end of public debate about what Messers Hargov and Damary might have been doing. Their flat was scarcely



Igal Damary, one of the two suspected Mossad agents, at the Larnaca court yesterday surrounded by police

Takis Ioannides/EPA

200 yards from a National Guards camp – which may be a location for the Russian S-300 missiles that President Glafcos Clerides of Cyprus still insists on bringing to the island this year.

The Turks have already threatened to bomb the missile bases if they are installed. And Turkey's newest ally in the Middle East is a small Mediterranean country called Israel.

Then there is the S-300 radar system. It can, say the experts, project a coverage of several hundred miles, giving the owners access to most Israeli military air traffic patterns over Lebanon, the Golan Heights,

the West Bank and Israel itself. Perhaps for this reason, the charges against 37-year-old Mr Hargov and Mr Damary, 49, were expanded yesterday from the original accusation that they were working for a single "foreign country" to the claim that they were gathering information on military installations of use to "any other states".

The Cypriots might have been more easy-going had their arrest not come only three days after an official visit to Cyprus by President Ezer Weizman of Israel – who was at pains to reassure Cypriots that the Israeli-Turkish alliance did

not threaten them. There was also the little matter of four Israelis arrested here back in 1991 when a policeman came across them – holding tools and a telephone junction box – in the lobby of the building housing the Iranian embassy in Nicosia. They claimed they were "looking for a toilet" and were released with a fine for trespassing.

Indeed, Mossad seems to take it seriously. Mossad's operations head resigned – according to the Israeli paper *Maariv* – after Hargov and Damary were arrested.

Other Israeli newspapers took it as confirmation that both worked for Mossad when

the Israeli Prime Minister responded to the case by saying cryptically that "it's one of those things that the less one talks about, the better".

The defence lawyer Andis Triznastyliides, asking for more time to study the extended charges, obtained a remand in custody for the two Israelis until 21 December. The police in black then snapped handcuffs on the pair and hustled them back into the van, leaving behind two possible thoughts: that Mossad isn't what it is cracked up to be; and that you must never – ever – be rude to the owners of Cypriot fish restaurants.

Israelis 'unlikely' to hand over land

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

AS THE PRICE of keeping his right-wing coalition in power, Benjamin Netanyahu is edging away from implementing the next stage of the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

The Israeli Prime Minister survived possible defeat in the Knesset on Monday night by appeasing the far right, who are opposed to the Wye Agreement with the Palestinians. David Bar-Ilan, the Prime Minister's communications director, said yesterday that Israel was unlikely to carry out the second stage of the handover of land.

The crisis within Mr Netanyahu's government and the worst rioting for two years on the West Bank is beginning to overshadow the visit of President Bill Clinton at the end of the week, during which he will visit Palestinian-run areas.

Most of the 2,400 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel are now on hunger strike, and sympathy marches are leading to increased violence throughout the West Bank. Among the casualties was a nephew of Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, who was shot in the head by Israeli troops.

Mr Erekat said yesterday:

"Doctors told me today that Nasser is clinically dead."

"I hold the government of Netanyahu responsible for the escalation against the Palestinian people and for suspending peace moves."

Mr Netanyahu says he will not release prisoners with "blood on their hands", but the Israeli prison service says that only 430 of the Palestinians in jail are in this category.

Mr Netanyahu has tried to keep his coalition together by presenting the Wye deal as a triumph over the Palestinians. That has fuelled Palestinian protests and angered the United States, which has called for both sides to implement the terms agreed in October.

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Jean-Yves le Gallo, a supporter of the NF rebel Bruno Mégret, speaking to reporters in Paris yesterday AP

Dutch prepare air base for Lockerbie case

BY MARCUS TANNER

several hundred security guards, military personnel, media and relatives of those killed in the bombing.

One sign that Libya may be serious about handing over the men was an announcement that Libyan lawyers were raising money for the defence of the two men. An outstanding disagreement is where the two men, if found guilty, would serve their sentence.

Libya has always refused to hand over the two alleged intelligence agents, Abdel Basset al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, arguing that they would not receive a fair trial in Britain or the US. But last weekend, the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, emerged from a visit to Libya seemingly confident he had finally concluded negotiations on the two suspects' surrender.

"We are on our way to resolving the issue," Mr Annan declared after a meeting with Colonel Gaddafi.

Earlier this year, Libya won the agreement of Britain and the US for a trial before Scottish judges on neutral Dutch territory. The US and Britain have stepped up demands recently for the surrender of the two men to take place before the 10th anniversary of the bombing on 21 December. Britain and the Netherlands signed an agreement in September permitting the transfer of the land.

The final decision on the handing over of the two suspects lies with the Libyan assembly, the General People's Congress, which opened its session in the coastal city of Sirte yesterday. Observers in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, said the Lockerbie case was likely to be raised when foreign affairs were discussed.

ANNA SOMERS COCKS
Why do the Italians have such difficulty in deciding how to protect the world's most beautiful city?
THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 5

PRODUCT RECALL

PRINCES 227g CHOPPED TOMATOES IN TOMATO JUICE

Princes is taking the precautionary measure of recalling cans of Princes 227g Chopped Tomatoes in Tomato Juice. Tests have shown that some of this product contains higher than acceptable levels of tin.

The cans involved have the letters 'LJ' at the beginning of the code shown on one of the can ends.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Members of the public should dispose of cans of this product. Before doing so, remove the label from the pack and then send it to Princes Foods, Consumer Services Department, Royal Liver Building, Liverpool L3 1NX to obtain a full refund, including postage. We naturally apologise for any inconvenience caused. If you have any queries, please call our Customer Services Department on 0151 242 5776.

Le Pen accuses NF rivals of 'racism'

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

THE TIME BOMB of personal hatreds, rivalries and suspicions at the heart of the ultra-right National Front finally threatens to explode this week with far-reaching consequences for French politics.

An atmosphere of fear reigned at the NF headquarters in Saint-Cloud yesterday, as leading members of the party turned their well-honed powers of vituperation and paranoia against one another. Jean-Marie Le Pen, the party's president, stalked the corridors, suspending senior officials he suspected of supporting his rival, Bruno Mégret.

After months of submerged warfare, Mr Le Pen, 70, has publicly accused Mr Mégret of leading "a minority of extremists, even racists" in a putsch against him (the first time that Mr Le Pen has admitted that any part of his party is racist).

The NF secretary-general, Bruno Gollnisch - a Le Pen loyalist - said on television that the party was the victim of a "take-over bid by foreign powers", including the "American secret services". Mr Mégret, 49, may be many things, including a racist, but it is difficult to picture him as an agent of the CIA.

His followers, far from cowed, are pushing for an emergency congress of the party in February. The rebels believe that if the grass roots could be consulted, they could end Mr Le Pen's 26-year reign as "Chef" of the most powerful extreme nationalist party in western Europe. More likely, the far right - a fragile alliance of mutually loathing groups - is about to split into separate movements. This would give the centre-right parties a golden opportunity to reconquer the ground lost since Mr Le Pen's breakthrough in 1984.

A Stalinesque purge of Mr Mégret's supporters has gathered pace since a turbulent meeting of the NF national council at the weekend, when Mr Le Pen was booted by some senior NF members.

One leading Mégret supporter, Pierre Vial, compared Mr Le Pen to Louis XVI: An out-of-touch monarch, unable to comprehend the insurgent forces around him.

Mr Vial was ejected from the party on Monday. Another leading official, Serge Martinez, was ordered to prepare a hit-list of local activists and officials who supported Mr Mégret. He refused and was ordered out of the party by Mr Le Pen in person as he walked down a corridor in the NF headquarters. In a press conference, Mr Martinez said a "witch-hunt" was in progress and the "very survival of the NF is at stake".

Mr Mégret is unlikely to walk out, but he may be pushed. He is estimated to enjoy the support of 60 out of 100 members of the central committee and 17 out of 40 members of the party's political bureau, as well as the majority on several regional councils of the party.

Mr Mégret's supporters, mostly young or middle aged, believe that he can move the party out of the ideological ghetto created by Mr Le Pen and begin to form electoral alliances that would bring them, and some of their extreme nationalist and xenophobic ideas, to power.

Mr Le Pen and his supporters, including most of the party's old guard but also many younger front activists, accuse Mr Mégret of being prepared to exchange the party's ideological purity for a few cabinet posts. Most of all, perhaps, the struggle is about Mr Le Pen's refusal to accept that the NF is no longer his personal fiefdom.

...and them ...and them
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Germany and US split over role for Nato

SERIOUS RIFTS in the transatlantic defence alliance opened up yesterday as Germany called for a revision of the Nato nuclear weapons doctrine and Washington's proposals for a new global role for Nato ran into a wall of European opposition.

Joshka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, used a meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels to challenge Nato to put aside Cold War taboos and renounce the first use of nuclear weapons. The call has already been rejected by the United States and yesterday it was sharply dismissed by the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, representing one of Nato's three nuclear powers. He said he saw "no need for a change in the nuclear posture of Nato".

A defiant Mr Fischer, making his debut at Nato, not only repeated the proposal but reacted to Washington's disapproval by defending the right of any member of the alliance to call for debate. Reminding Washington that it does not have a monopoly on ideas and that the Cold War is over, he said: "Reflection has never been something which was banned at Nato. That has been one of the alliance's strengths and should remain so."

Senior Nato officials were polite but dismissive of the idea. One said that the nuclear deterrent combined with conventional weapons had preserved the peace in Europe "for the longest period since the Holy Roman Empire". There would have to be convincing military reasons for undermining its deterrent value, he stressed.

Germany and France, meanwhile, poured cold water on American proposals to radically broaden Nato's scope, while Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, dismissed their suspicions as "hogwash".

She denied that by tabling US proposals for a new "strate-

BY KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

and co-ordinated steps to protect the allies from attacks by such weapons.

The US would also like to see Nato sweep away any obstacles to operating anywhere in the world if its interests are under threat, even without the authority of the UN Security Council. Kosovo and Bosnia are being cited as examples of the new forms of threat. But the French Foreign Minister, Hubert Vedrine, joined Germany in insisting that Nato's threat of military action in Kosovo, which was activated without a UN Security Council resolution, was an exception to the rule, not a precedent for the future.

The French reaction yesterday reflects the concern in Europe that the US is railroading its allies into military solutions such as the controversial cruise missile attack on a suspected chemical weapons factory in Sudan, carried out in response to US embassy bombings in two African cities last August.

Reminding the Americans that collective defence would have to remain the foundation of Nato, Mr Vedrine said the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was just "one risk among many" and Nato was just "one actor among many". He also insisted that specific UN endorsement would have to remain the basis for any Nato activities.

Mr Cook appeared to line up behind the Americans, advising against artificial geographical limits to Nato's activities. It was increasingly clear, he said, that Nato would be drawn into security and crisis management in conflicts in areas that went beyond the strict territorial borders of the alliance.

Yesterday's meeting foreshadowed difficulties in reaching agreement on a new blueprint to include such capabilities as an intelligence clearing house on nuclear, biological and chemical weapons

Joshka Fischer: Called for reflection in Nato

meeting what she called "a wide range of threats to common interests". To some European ears this smacked of Washington trying to enlist its allies to further its global security ambitions, but Ms Albright said that because the world had changed Nato must also turn its attention to such threats as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The US wants the new Nato blueprint to include such capabilities as an intelligence clearing house on nuclear, biological and chemical weapons



Astronaut Jerry Ross pausing from his work on the space station modules Zarya (top) and Unity (below), to take a picture of the Earth from his perch at the end of the 50ft robot arm of the space shuttle Endeavour, 240 miles above the planet

AP/Nasa TV

Lunar fake was real chip off the rock

WHEN AGENTS from United States Customs placed a phony classified in USA Today seeking chunks of moon rock for sale

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

they were hoping to break open the black market in fake lunar memorabilia. Imagine their surprise when a man surfaced offering them the real thing - an actual moon rock for sale for \$5m (£3m).

The minuscule pebble, encased in plastic and only 12mm by 9mm, has now been seized by the authorities and the putative vendor, identified as Alan Rosen of Florida, finds himself in no small amount of trouble.

The seizure has also visited sizeable embarrassment on

Nasa, the Post Office and US Customs. Its original intent was to squash an apparently thriving market in fake lunar items, including phony rock and bits of Nasa rockets.

This real piece of rock was apparently bought by Mr Rosen from a retired Honduran military officer in Honduras more than a year ago. It may be, however, that Mr Rosen's only crime is that he imported the piece into the United States without declaring to Customs. He could face smuggling charges.

The piece was originally collected by the last Apollo mission to the moon. Apollo 17 lifted off on 7 December 1972 - almost

exactly 26 years ago. Its team of astronauts collected samples of rock that were dedicated to the people of the world.

The launch of Apollo 17 was witnessed by students from 78 different nations and the government of each country, including Honduras, received a piece on the rocket's return.

In the course of Operation Lunar Eclipse, agents were told that several of those governments had since sold their pieces of rock for prices ranging from \$5m to \$10m.

In his effort to ensure the authenticity of his purchase, Mr Rosen, 60, went so far as to contact the former commander of the Apollo 17 mission. Eu-

gene Cernan, about a year ago.

"I found it very strange because there isn't anybody who's got a piece of the rock, including any of us who went to the moon," Mr Cernan said this week.

The rock was collected by Commander Cernan and his team in the Taurus Littrow Valley of the moon.

It is believed to be 3.9 billion years old. Randy Cook, a special investigator for Nasa, acknowledges that there may be several other chunks of legitimate lunar rock now on the market. "There are some moon rocks in private hands," he said.

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Deutsche launches \$1.5bn bond

DEUTSCHE BANK yesterday launched the largest ever euro-dominated bond to help finance its takeover of rival Bankers Trust. The German bank said it was issuing a bond with a volume of 1.5bn euros (\$1.5bn), convertible into stock in Allianz, the insurance company in which Deutsche Bank has a 9.4 per cent stake. If all the bonds were fully converted, Deutsche would reduce its Allianz stake by 1.7 per cent.

The announcement came as officials in the United States sought to delay the creation of the world's biggest bank. New York City Comptroller Alan Hevesi called on Monday for a delay in the merger until the Holocaust claims involving Deutsche Bank were settled. Edgar Bronfman, the president of the World Jewish Congress, said he believed the merger would not go through until restitution was made.

London Clubs seeks UK licences

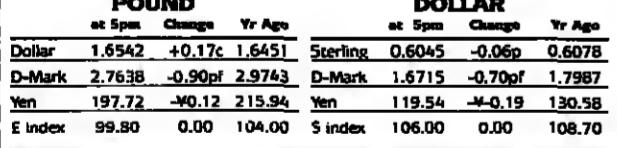
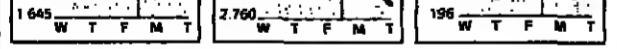
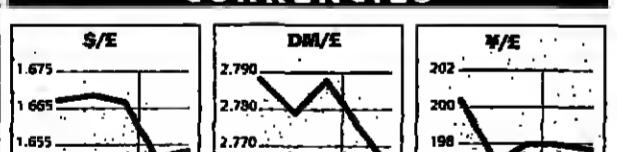
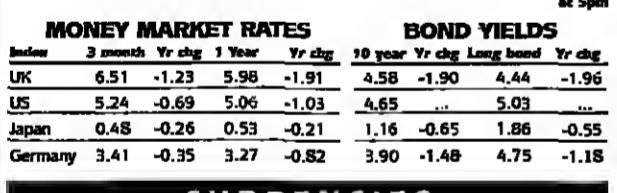
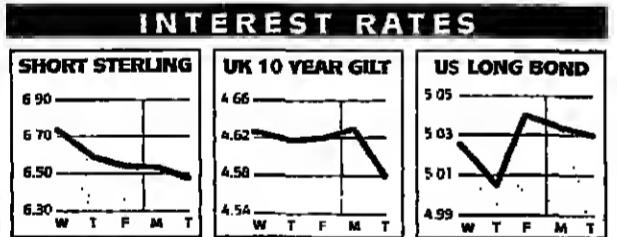
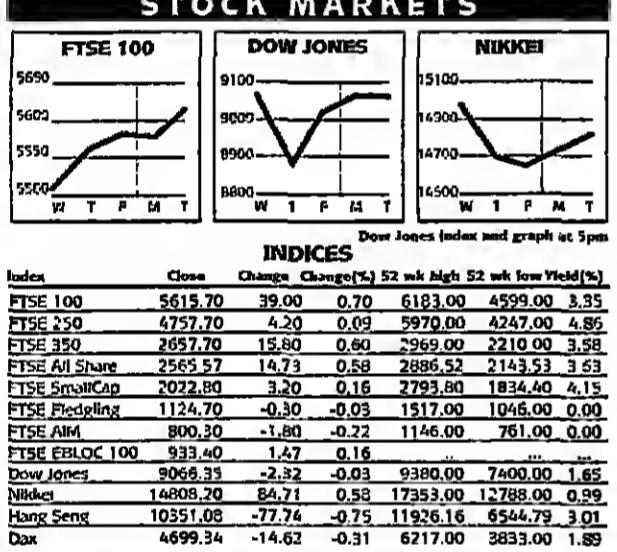
LONDON CLUBS International, the gaming group, is set to apply for new casino licences in the UK over the next few months as the Government presses ahead with the deregulation of the market. The news came as the company, led by chief executive Alan Goodenough (pictured), reported a sharp drop in interim profits to £10.8m from £14.3m a year ago. London Clubs said earnings were hit hard by the "unexpected and significant" increase in gaming duty introduced in the last Budget. A fall in the number of punters from the Far East as a result of that region's financial crisis, and the strength of sterling, also took their toll on profits, the company added.

Saudi action call boosts oil prices

OIL PRICES - which on Monday sank below \$10 barrel for the first time since 1985 - edged upwards again yesterday after Saudi Arabia called for action to prop up the market. In London, the benchmark Brent crude price rose by more than 50 cents a barrel after Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia told Gulf leaders that they should not hesitate to take measures to shore up the oil price.

Separately, the International Energy Agency revealed in its monthly oil report that growth in world oil demand

appeared to have stalled in September and October.



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Source: Thomas Cook

Derek Pain, page 21

Market upheavals and euro intensify the urge to merge

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

Financial Editor

THE GLOBAL mega-merger wave that has swept the developed world this year is likely to last well into 1999, with slower economic growth and the advent of the euro compounding pressure on corporate management to do deals, according to research by JP Morgan, the American investment bank.

"Over the last two weeks 24 deals worth over \$1bn have been done and the year is not over yet," Klaus Diederichs, JP Morgan's co-head of global advisory, said yesterday.

The financial markets turmoil in August and September, far from killing off the mergers and acquisitions (M&A) market, has actually galvanised managements into action.

Most of the deals, says Mr Diederichs, are being driven by the realities of the market place rather than by the kind of financial engineering that drove the M&A boom of the 1980s. "The companies we are seeing are talking about industrial logic and cost savings, not financing."

Investors, he says, have become used to double-digit returns. But in a low growth, low inflation market, achieving earnings growth of more than 3 per cent a year is going to be virtually impossible. "The only way to achieve this is to try something and go and create value."

The pressure is intensifying. "A lot of companies have been shocked over the last six months at their lack of pricing power," says Mr Diederichs. He quotes Antoine Riboud, the former chairman and chief executive of Danone, the French food giant: "If you are number one you make a profit, if you are number two you just hang on. If you are number three you break even. The rest forget it."

Gary Duggan, JP Morgan's chief European equity strate-

gist, adds: "The largest firms have not just the largest market share but are also able to do the largest M&A deals."

The sectors where deals are most likely to come next year are financial and retailing, which have traditionally been regarded in terms of distinct national markets. That is about to change.

More than two-thirds of "mergers of equals" – an all-share merger between two companies of roughly equal size – have added shareholder

value, as measured by out-performance of the shares against the relevant stock market indices. That compares with a figure of 56 per cent for all deals, including straightforward takeovers.

The research runs counter to the large body of academic research frequently trotted out showing that most deals are value-destroying.

However Paul Gilhs, head of analytical policy for JP Morgan's European mergers and acquisitions team, says the main reason why deals fail to deliver is because the acquirer pays too much in the first place. This partly explains why no-premium mergers have come from almost nowhere three years ago to dominate global merger and acquisition activity.

JP Morgan's research also suggests that crossborder deals within Europe are the ones least likely to deliver value to shareholders, because of the political difficulties in integrating businesses and achieving economies of scale. Deals within the same national markets offer most scope for cost savings, and transatlantic deals have performed well.

Mr Diederichs adds that deals are also more likely to succeed if they are backed up by a clear strategy. He cites the example of the BP merger with Amoco. "The deal had a fantastic reception. It was well thought out. John Browne [the BP chief executive] had a strong track record of getting his house in order. That is not the case with other deals."

This contrasts with the Rhône-Poulenc and Hoechst deal last week, where for political reasons the precise management structure and the extent or nature of cost savings have had to be fudged.

Mr Gilhs also questions whether the ScottishPower/PacificCorp deal will deliver. "It is hard to see where the cost reductions are going to be achieved," he says.

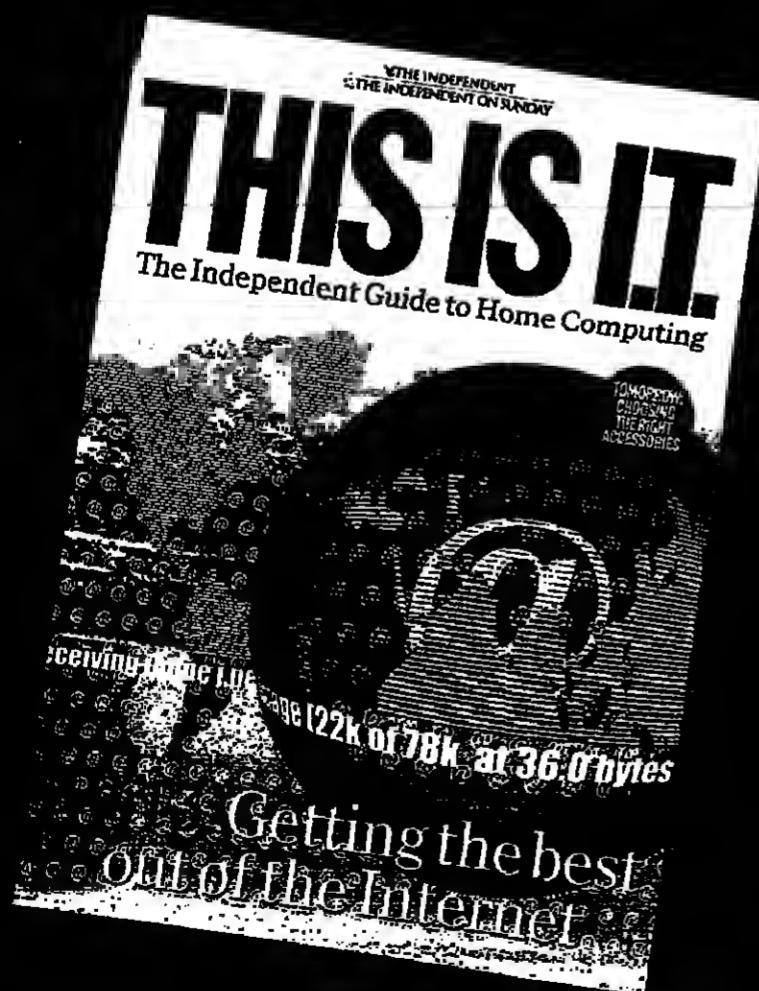
market expects," says Mr Duggan. The advent of the euro also means that fund managers will be focusing on the top 50 European stocks to the detriment of the middle-ranking firms which are big in national markets but lack the size to make it on a continental or global stage.

The operating environment is getting tougher and tougher, and it is harder to achieve the growth the stock

market expects," says Mr Duggan. The advent of the euro also means that fund managers will be focusing on the top 50 European stocks to the detriment of the middle-ranking firms which are big in national markets but lack the size to make it on a continental or global stage.

The operating environment is getting tougher and tougher, and it is harder to achieve the growth the stock

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US operator GTS, which has taken over Easdaq-listed Esprit Telecom, has built a network in Europe based on the Internet data protocol

I Simon/Rex Features

Takeover creates \$4bn telecom giant

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

TWO OF Europe's newest telecoms operators yesterday joined forces in a merger which will create a \$1.1bn (£2.5bn) powerhouse in the fast-expanding European market.

Esprit Telecom, which is listed on the Easdaq exchange for European technology companies, has agreed to an all-share takeover by Global TeleSystems (GTS), a US group which financier George Soros helped to fund. The offer values Esprit at \$985m.

The move is the first sign of consolidation among the many companies that rushed to grab market share in European telecoms after competition was introduced at the start of the year.

The news sparked a flurry of bid speculation among other telecoms operators. Shares in Colt Telecom, which has built fibre-optic networks in major European cities and is a favourite takeover candidate, jumped 40p to 840p.

"It was a necessary move for Esprit they do need scale," said John Tysoe, analyst at SG Securities. "This makes them look as if they've got a sufficient critical mass."

Both companies have set up high-speed telecoms networks to carry traffic for other operators and business customers. However, Esprit has grown by setting up sales

Shareholders representing 65 per cent of Esprit's share capital, including Apax Partners and Warburg Pincus, the venture capital groups that helped start Esprit in 1992, have agreed to accept the offer.

The move creates a major player in the so-called "carriers' carrier" market – providing high-speed telecoms capacity for other operators – with 60 per cent market share. On latest quarterly accounts, combined annual revenues are around \$465m. It will have 3,000 employees and 35,000 customers.

"This market is expected to grow between 50 and 70 per cent over the next five years," said Gerald Thomas, GTS chief executive.

The computer giant originally started the networking business in 1981 when most telecom operators only offered national services.

COMPANY RESULTS						
Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Storken Acid Mktg. (F)	49.46m (+2.21m)	9.46m (+2.55m)	4.10p (+1.64p)	4.5p (-)	20/01/99	04/01/99
Amico Mktg. (F)	8.92m (+1.51m)	+1.52m (+0.92m)	4.3p (+2.6p)	1p (-)	-	-
Berkeley Group (I)	332.42m (+7.43m)	52.52m (+3.88m)	29.0p (+2.70p)	2.8p (0.65p)	12/02/99	04/01/99
Berkeley Digital Holdings (I)	48.76m (+8.56m)	8.53m (7.2m)	21.7p (+2.6p)	1p (-)	-	-
BBS Group (I)	17.66m (+1.19m)	7.14m (+1.27m)	15.0p (+1.1p)	7.5p (+0.9p)	15/01/99	14/12/98
Deutsche Scientific Group (I)	1.96m (+1.25m)	-0.49m (+1.54m)	-1.79p (+0.51p)	4.33p (+0.09p)	11/02/99	01/02/99
Frymann (I)	54.11m (+6.791m)	0.961m (0.405m)	0.561m (0.205m)	0.54p (0.50p)	07/04/99	14/12/99
Hochste & Marchal Grp (F)	25.87m (+5.746m)	1.194m (1.056m)	2.7p (2.1p)	0.54p (0.50p)	-	-
Hosack Group (I)	3.13m (+0.52m)	4.7m (+1.31m)	14.2p (1.10p)	11.3p (+1.3p)	12/02/99	04/01/99
John David Sports (I)	6.24m (+0.29m)	5.88m (5.52m)	8.60p (8.19p)	7.0p (1.20p)	25/02/99	29/12/98
Londoner (I)	3.16m (+1.6m)	0.817m (0.501m)	12.4p (4.4p)	5.0p (-)	03/02/99	14/12/98
Media (I)	2.17m (+1.57m)	9.65m (13.499m)	4.25p (6.8p)	2.60p (0.6p)	08/02/99	04/01/99
PTC (I)	20.8m (+1.55m)	0.206m (+0.226m)	0.87p (+0.13p)	1p (-)	03/02/99	14/12/98
Pixel Rail (I)	14.63m (+2.93m)	0.52m (4.175p)	1.6p (1.15p)	4.29p (0.61p)	12/02/99	11/01/99
Pixel & Hercules Inc. (I)	1.863m (+1.879m)	21.54m (22.54m)	25.80p (20.1p)	8.53p (7.93p)	12/02/99	11/01/99
Siemens Hirschmann Holdings (I)	1.79m (+1.25m)	0.206m (+0.212m)	3.54p (2.22p)	1.4p (0.3p)	16/01/99	14/12/98
Siemens (I)	61.6m (+5.6m)	18.5m (11.72m)	1.15p (1.17p)	1.15p (-)	28/01/99	21/12/99

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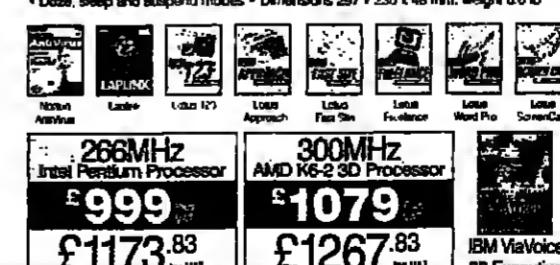
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- 128-bit 3D 2Mb graphics
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- 3D Wavetable stereo sound
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- Microsoft Windows® 98
- Over £800 of CD Software including Lotus SmartSuite Millennium

Product codes 233 (300); 266 (301); 300-2 (602)

Advanced Features are Standard: EZ glide touch pad pointing device and 84 key full feature keyboard • N44H Battery and AC Power adapter/charger 100 to 240v auto sensing • Intel® 400TX PCI/ISA fully multimedia compliant system board • All standard Ports including two USB Ports, TV-Out, External SVGA, Coaxial color port, expansion bus, serial, parallel, mini-PCI port, PS/2 mouse/keyboard port, 2 PCMCIA slots • Dose, sleep and suspend modes • Dimensions 297 x 230 x 48 mm; weight 5.6 lb



Product codes 233 (300); 266 (301); 300-2 (602)

Typical Finance Example: Pay nothing + pay 100p by Jan 2000, last cash

price £1000 APR 0% Or pay deposit, return for 12 months + 25 months

£104.60. Total price = £1762.00 APR 0% subject to status.

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MAIN MOVERS														
RISES					FALLS									
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES 0.02%														
PRICE(P) CHG(%) %CHG														
Spring Ram C 6.34 1.00 16.20														
Mehlitz Pte 16.50 -15.00 -15.00														
Wingate Corp 9.50 0.50 5.00														
Spring Group 11.00 -12.50 -12.50														
Holmes Pte 15.50 1.50 15.50														
Telepac Pte 22.50 -3.00 -3.00														
Grove Pte 15.00 -1.50 -1.50														
Wrightson 12.00 1.00 8.33														
Wrightson 12.00 1.00 8.33														
Astra Group 6.00 4.00 6.67														
Astra Group 6.00 4.00 6.67														
MARKET LEADERS														
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm														
Stock	B/S		B/S		B/S		B/S		B/S					
Stock	B/S		B/S		B/S		B/S		B/S					
Stock	B/S		B/S		B/S		B/S		B/S					
Stock	B/S		B/S		B/S		B/S		B/S					
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Stock	B/S		B/S		B/S		B/S		B/S					
Stock	B/S		B/S		B/S		B/S		B/S					
Stock														

Zeneca surges in feverish trading

IN OFTEN feverish trading shares of the Zeneca drugs group surged 20p as rumours of a Continental takeover once again swirled around. The stock market, which would dearly love a mega deal for Christmas, was happy to go along with the bid idea although speculators may have been wrong footed by institutional buying ahead of an investment presentation the drugs group has called for today.

Zeneca has been one of the market's favourite bid candidates since it was demerged from Imperial Chemical Industries five years ago.

With its impressive drugs portfolio it looks irresistible takeover fodder for the likes of Glaxo Wellcome and the Swiss giant Roche.

Although it is capitalised at nearly £24bn Zeneca is a relatively small player in a rapidly consolidating industry. Glaxo, for example, is worth nearly £70bn and SmithKline Beecham £42bn.

Turnover, most of it during the afternoon, was 2.5 million shares. The price closed 10p higher at 2,520p which compares with a year's high of 2,620p.

Trading perked up a little from

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Monday's barren display and Footsie, at one time up 63.1 points, ended with a comfortable 39 gain to 5,615.7. Supporting indices edged ahead.

Blue chips drew strength from the growing conviction that the Monetary Policy Committee will feel obliged to reduce interest rates although few believe it will indulge in the full 1 percentage point cut being advocated in some quarters.

Still another gloomy retail survey appeared to underline the need for a significant, say half-a-point, easing.

British Aerospace, at one time 8p higher, continued to flutter on hopes of a Continental deal. There were suggestions it could clinch the rumoured deal with DaimlerChrysler Aerospace tomorrow. The shares ended 7p lower at 504p.

Prins Rail threatened to derail some of the other train operators after rolling out disappointing interim figures. Stagecoach, with half-year results tomorrow, shaded 11.75p to 230p. The group is expected to produce 194m against 273.1m: there is some vagueness, it has encountered problems at its Portobello off-shoot. Railtrack was shunted 49p down to 1,521p by cautious comments from HSBC, which suggested the shares should be 1,350p.

British Airways was lowered 6.5p to 366.5p as it became apparent that Warburg Dillon Read had shaved its year's profits estimate by some £100m to £300m. Most forecasts are above £400m.

Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery and soft-drink group, firmed ahead 30p to 913p on further consideration of its US bottling deal and Allied Domecq, 18p to 530p, and

Whitbread, 24p to 763p, responded to cheerful comments on pub trading from Scottish & Newcastle, 15.5p higher at 719.5p.

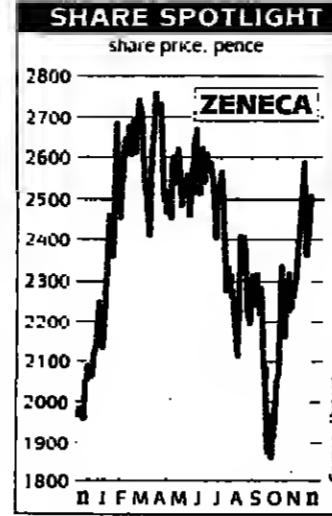
But pub tiddler Paramount collapsed 6.5p to a 10p low ahead of next

EMERALD ENERGY'S Colombian oil adventure is looking distinctly jaded. The shares, 10p earlier this year, fell 0.5p to 3.25p.

There is disappointment over the results so far achieved at its Gigante well and, with its shares on the slide, it is clearly encountering difficulty raising the additional cash, perhaps as much as £10m, it needs to continue its Colombian exploration. Emerald's position is not helped by the collapse of the crude oil price.

week's shareholders' meeting. Five years ago the price was 105p.

The oil giants drew comfort from the modest revival of the crude price from its historic low. British Petroleum put on 23p to 883.5p and Shell, also helped by the prospect



of an analysts meeting scheduled for later this month, improved 14.5p to 349.5p. But Premier Oil, seemingly doomed to relegation from the mid-cap index, lost 2.25p to 18.75p.

Plaza Express was sliced 32.5p to 81.25p by director selling. Six of its nine-strong boardroom team cashed in by selling 1.15 million shares at an average price of 82.5p. The deals realised a £4.5m profit for the six. Debenhams fell 5.5p to 330p.

The latest boardroom shenanigans at Newcastle Utd clipped the shares 3.5p to 94.5p. Blockleys, the building materials group, softened 3.5p to 41.5p. It said it was looking to unlock shareholder value. The company urged shareholders not to accept the bid from Natural Building Materials, which already has 10.5 per cent of the capital and is striving to take its support to 29 per cent. It expects acceptances representing a further 20 per cent.

Hewson, another building materials group, firmed 6p to 150p - after the market closed it reported a possible bid approach. Engineer Jones & Shipman, another to attract bid interest, gained 1.5p to 12p. Mining group Waverley hardened to 6.5p after bidder Corporate Resolve revised its offer.

Arm, the computer chip group, jumped 10.5p to 1,195p on expected trading links and Acorn, with an Arm stake, rose 4.5p to 79p. Allowing for tax influences it seems the Arm interest could be worth 100p for each Acorn share.

SEAG VOLUME: 854.8m
SEAG TRADES: 55,349
GILT INDEX: 114.34 +0.45

Investment: The fall in consumer confidence is worrying the UK's biggest brewer

Berkeley slides on property downturn

BY SIMON DUKE

BERKELEY GROUP, the UK's second-largest housebuilder, saw its share price dip by 3 per cent yesterday as it predicted a downturn in the property market.

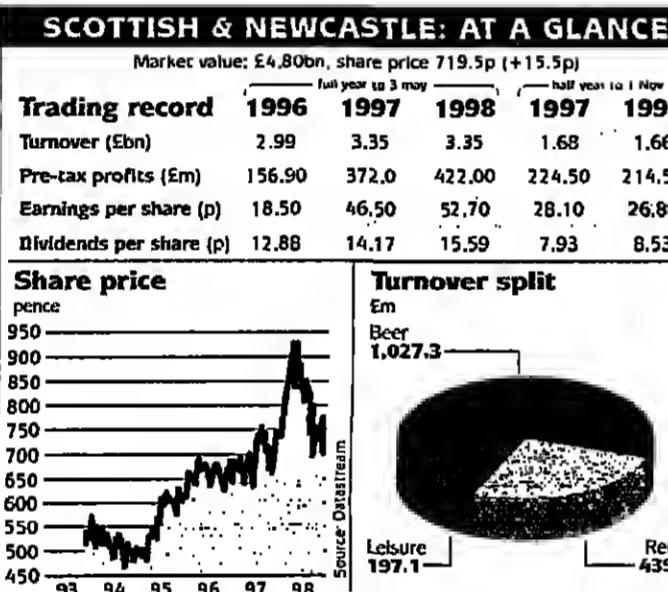
Reporting a below-forecast 20 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profit to £52.5m, Graham Roper, group chairman, said demand from Asian buyers and speculators had dried up in London. "The slowdown, which started in the spring, has continued. Volumes have dropped, and there is pressure on sale prices."

Berkeley, which estimates that land prices in the capital have fallen by about 20 per cent, said it had cut its land purchases by up to 75 per cent on last year. With £14m in cash and £247m in unused credit facilities, Mr Roper believes Berkeley will take advantage of "the buying opportunities which will become available during this less certain period".

Berkeley's slide from a 12-month high of 776p in May to yesterday's three-year low of 410p is a familiar story in a sector in which City confidence has collapsed. And Berkeley is viewed as a company with a high "run-average" exposure to the volatile London housing market.

Jonathan Timms, analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, said the company had put in another good performance, but the market was against it. But if January and February sales figures are positive, Berkeley will start to look cheap against assets. The company is capitalised at £520m, against over £600m in assets. "Logically, a housing company with a high asset turnover should not be valued below net asset value," said Mr Timms.

However, another analyst said Berkeley's figures showed an unexplained sale that reaped an 11m profit. "With this stripped out, there is actually a profit decline. Berkeley's only problem in the past has been the mismanagement of expectations, leading the market to believe it could earn 25 per cent more than is possible in the long term. We are beginning to see what Berkeley's sustainable earnings really are, and this has been reflected in the recent battering of the share price."



BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

and Miller Pilsner. Mr Stewart's comments came as S&N, which brews nearly one in three pints in Britain and owns more than 2,000 pubs, reported a 4.5 per cent drop in interim pre-tax profits to £24.5m on turnover marginally down to £1.66bn. The dividend was raised 7.6 per cent to 5.5p.

The earnings slide was broadly in line with market expectations and was driven by a collapse in beer sales which offset a strong showing from S&N's pub operations.

Lager and ale sales had been hit hard by the poor summer weather and by the end of an exclusive supply agreement S&N said that most of the 9.9 per cent fall in the profits

of its beer division to £104.3m was caused by the renegotiation of a lucrative contract to provide beer to the Grand Pub Company, the pub giant owned by Nomura.

The Grand Pub effect overshadowed strong growth in S&N's premium brands, led by Miller's 22 per cent advance and Fosters' 10 per cent increase. City analysts remained cautious on the future outlook for S&N's shares, which yesterday strengthened 15.5p to 719.5p.

Nigel Popham, of Teather & Greenwood, said S&N was well equipped to weather a consumer slowdown. However, he warned that beer and pubs were mature businesses that were unlikely to yield sharp growth in the long term. "If you compare it with Bass, Bass has a

growth avenue in international hotels. I'm not quite sure where S&N would go for growth."

Mr Popham, who yesterday downgraded its profits forecast for this year from £430m to £420m, said that he has a "hold/sell" recommendation on the stock. "The rating of these shares - on a prospective price/earnings ratio of around 13.5 - looks to be in line with Bass. This is not dear but the jury is still out on S&N."

Ben Maitland, brewing analyst at broker Sutherland, said that growth could come from the acquisition of a European brewer. S&N had been rumoured to have considered a £2bn bid for Kronenbourg, owned by the French food group Danone. Derek Wilkinson, S&N financial director, declined to comment on the rumour

of its beer division to £104.3m was caused by the renegotiation of a lucrative contract to provide beer to the Grand Pub Company, the pub giant owned by Nomura.

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Ascot buys German chemical group for £90m

BY SIMON DUKE

SHARES IN Ascot, the industrial group, surged by 6 per cent yesterday following the announcement of the acquisition of the Haltermann Group, a German chemical group, for £90m.

In a statement, Ascot said that the purchase "creates a world-leading business in the chemicals outsourcing market, which has attracted growth potential".

The company will fund the

£50 per cent market share in Europe, and 30 per cent in the US.

Contract chemical processing, the manufacture of small batches of specialist chemicals outsourced by bigger companies, is perceived by the City as a stable business.

"It is an essential part of the industry to be in. You don't have anything like the cycles of the commodity chemical business, or even specialty chemicals," said one analyst.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the house broker, upped its full-year pre-tax profit forecasts by 7 per cent. With a share price of 250p, many believe that the forward p/e ratio of 7.5 is too low.

Ascot is also expected to benefit from a joint venture with ChiroTech, which makes a chemical compound for Glaxo's new anti-Aids drug, Abacavir, due to be launched in January.

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Many top performers are frustrated with poor testing methods and demand harsher penalties to punish cheats

Authorities 'failing British sport'

INEFFECTUAL GOVERNING bodies that ignore drug abuse are contributing to the common problem of illegal drugs in sport, according to the country's leading sportsmen and women. The *Independent's* survey of drug use in British sport shows elite sportsmen and women believe a range of drugs are being used and drug testing programmes are failing British sport.

The survey targeted more than 1,300 people from the top levels of sport - the most highly-ranked Lottery-sponsored athletes and swimmers, Premier League and Nationwide League footballers, first-class cricketers, Super League and Premiership One rugby players, leading flat and National Hunt jockeys, tennis players in the British top 40 and weightlifters of international standing. There were more than 300 respondents to the survey.

BY NICK HARRIS

Of all those who replied, 13 per cent think steroids are being abused, rising to 47 per cent in rugby league, 31 per cent in rugby union and 16 per cent in athletics. Erythropoietin (EPO), a substance which increases the blood's oxygen-carrying capacity and was at the centre of this summer's Tour de France debacle, is cited as a problem by eight per cent (27 per cent in athletics) and human growth hormone by eight per cent (19 per cent in athletics and 15 per cent in swimming).

Respondents called for improved testing methods and harsher penalties and feel current measures do not go far enough to combat the drugs problem. One 19-year-old rugby union player wrote: "Drugs are widely used in rugby union and officials - I have a feeling this is so

turn a blind eye." He added that frequent testing needs to be introduced, randomly and without warning, especially in the off-season between April and August. "If a sport does not have a rigorous all-year round drug testing programme, with coverage from 16 years old to senior level, then there should be a campaign by business sponsors to withdraw support from the sport."

"No government money, including Lottery cash, should be made available to such a sport. Put simply, if the papers do not take up the challenge then the sporting bodies will never act."

Many respondents in rugby echoed his views, calling for more random tests and fines for clubs as well as players to encourage team officials to tackle the problem. In rugby union 62 per cent of respondents felt the laws in their sport were

inappropriate and needed enforcing more effectively. In rugby league and swimming the corresponding figure approached 50 per cent and in athletics it was 64 per cent. A common complaint in the survey was that testing was virtually non-existent in their experience. "Drug tests should be more frequent," one 30-year-old footballer said. "I have been tested once in 12 years. Testing does deter the use of drugs, although not to the extent it should." A 20-year-old female tennis player, who said she has competed at 20 events internationally in the past year, revealed: "I have yet to see drug testers at any tournament." Her experience was not uncommon but testing away from competition is less likely still.

According to figures released by the Sports Council, the number of out-of-competition tests (conducted with no notice, away from events) in athletics last year was 602. In British football there were just two, in rugby league and cricket one apiece. There were none at all in rugby union, tennis or swimming. Testing

at major events and 'squad testing' - pre-arranged visits to club training sessions - were more widespread (517 individuals in the year in football, 243 in rugby league, 139 in swimming, 126 in cricket and 21 in tennis), but many respondents to the survey called for more.

More than 43 per cent of all respondents called for tougher rules, with many calling for blood tests in place of urine tests. Others went further, and one 34-year-old female athlete wrote: "Testing urine is a joke as distance runners use EPO which is undetectable. Either test blood or you may as well legalise all drugs. Let British athletes lead the way in blood testing by volunteering a blood sample and take a polygraph test and have all the results published."

"I bet there would be a reluctance on the part of a lot of athletes to do this. Clean the sport up once and for

all. At the moment I would not encourage any child to take up athletics because of the hypocrisy of some of their so-called sports role models."

Fears that drug abuse could spread were also common. One footballer wrote: "In athletics I think it's out of control. Whenever someone wins a race on the track or comes first on the field I'm not sure if their win was pure or assisted. I wouldn't like football to go that way, that's why regular testing - every player from every club every two to three weeks - is the only way to deter drug abuse, whether recreational or performance enhancing."

A 22-year-old female swimmer added: "Governing bodies must continue to work hard with science to try to get one step ahead of the drug users, if they really do want to catch them out, which I sometimes wonder."



Swimmer Adrian Turner, 21, trains nine times a week to excel in a sport where, he says, drug-taking is preventable and authorities are slow in acting Peter Jay

Cheats are getting away, says Turner

WHEN ADRIAN TURNER heard the head of the International Olympic Committee say there might be a case for shortening the list of prohibited substances in sport, his first thought was: "That's the biggest load of rubbish I've ever heard."

The 21-year-old swimmer, a finalist in the 400m individual medley at this year's Commonwealth Games, added: "I felt sick when I heard him say that. He (Juan Antonio Samaranch, who later said all drugs harmful to health should remain on the banned list, but there might be a case for removing others) is the head honcho in the IOC and he was saying 'Take some of the list.' And I thought 'T'm the one who's got to race against these people who's got to use drugs.'

Like many young British sportsmen and women, Turner feels there are still people cheating in his sport

and feels not enough is done to stop it. "There is a fear of extensive testing by governing bodies because a 100 per cent sample might make a mockery of swimming if all of a sudden they came up with a 30 per cent positive test rate. Every time they catch someone, it's good for us clean athletes but it's also bad for swimming in general. People will say 'here's another one in swimming, how bent is swimming?' The swimming federations do have a vested interest in keeping the number of positive tests to a minimum."

Turner added that some responsibility should lie with the rich corporate sponsors who pay huge amounts to be associated with the glamorous side of sport. "It seems

scarily easy to me to be able to clean up a sport but no one seems to be making a move to do so. I don't get it."

Although tested twice while in Kuala Lumpur at the Commonwealth Games, Turner said testing in general leaves much to be desired. "Before the Games I hadn't been tested for two years. I wasn't tested in training, wasn't tested at any competitions. I could have been using any substances and I wasn't tested. It's not good enough. If I could get away with it, how many others are there that might not be as clean as I am?"

Drug use is a common topic of discussion within swimming. Turner said, as are the temptations to

bend the rules. He recalled an incident at the European Championships last year, less than 10 months after a Russian swimmer had been allowed to keep an Olympic medal despite having tested positive for a steroid masking agent. "My room-mate said to me: 'if you could take something that would make sure you got a guaranteed Olympic gold, and it had no side effects and you knew no one would ever catch you, would you take it?'"

He added: "I've competed in China and seen how little in the way of assets the man in the street has, and how a winning athlete in that country is comparable in Western terms to a millionaire national hero. The phrase 'nothing to lose' is startlingly applicable. So why do our punishments make it even more so?"

In spite of what the prophets of doom say, there are strides being made in the war against drugs. By Mike Rowbottom

THE ADVERTISEMENT - of which Michele Verroken, director of the UK Sports Council's Anti-Doping programme - had a copy, was problematic. Waving the article with an expression that tested positive for traces of exasperation, Verroken pondered the best tactics.

The item claimed to purify urine "for four to five hours". Now why would anyone want to do such a thing? Would it, by any chance, be to avoid banned substances being detected in the event of having to give a urine sample to an officer working under Verroken's direction? Analysis was required to see if the product lived up to its claims.

But if it didn't - would it be better not to say? So that anyone attempting to use it for cheating rather than any purpose of random curiosity, would be exposed? And what if it did live up to its claims? Would that then require another loop of explanation or another long chemical name to be appended to the bulging list of substances and practices currently proscribed by the International Olympic Committee?

Such tortuous mental processes have become second nature to Verroken as she has attempted to second-guess any British sporting protagonist who might have a mind for a spot of illicit chemical assistance.

How successful is she? Verroken can never know. That is the nature of the game she is playing - testers in pursuit of cheaters - where even positive results are ambiguous. Do they mean success - can it be assumed that all those not testing positive are innocent? Not for sure.

Last year under Verroken's auspices, the UK Sports Council doping programme carried out 4,574 tests, 3,752 of them in this country.

The samples, analysed by the Drug Control Centre in Cheadle, were carried out in 48 sports and yielded results that were 98.3 per cent negative.

Of the 79 cases where irregularities were reported, more than half were for stimulants. Anabolic agents, such as steroids, accounted for 16.5 per cent, refusals and non-availability 17.7 per cent, and marijuana 10.1 per cent.

That could be the national picture. But perhaps it will look very different when tests for the new vogue of hormone supplements, HGH and EPO, are found and introduced. In the meantime, Verroken's task is to marshal her forces as best she may.

One certainty however is that figure of around 4,000 tests, which has been the pattern for the last 10 years, is going to increase.

After seven years of pleading to the Government - which supplies all but £190,000 of the unit's £1m annual budget - has allowed them to go ahead and seek sponsorship for additional testing from national sporting governing bodies.

"It has been a turning point," she

said. "I feel very pleased about that because I hear what athletes are saying about wanting more testing." There are plans already being laid for blood testing to be introduced in time for the 2000 Olympics.

In the meantime, however, the testers must rely upon urine samples. There are, however, a number of new approaches which Verroken and her colleagues are considering in that area.

The first is of DNA sampling, to find out more about the urine's make-up and to confirm it is that of the intended donor. Another option, not widely available, is to store urine samples and produce a chemical profile of each competitor. Such a method, Verroken says, would reveal otherwise undetectable irregularities within a series of tests, even if each one had proved negative.

It is this kind of profile, indicating unusual variations in testosterone, which saw charges levelled against Mary Decker-Slaney this year.

But Verroken points out that such a system could also act as a safeguard for an athlete who shows up a surprising positive, perhaps abroad. They would be able to call on their profile as a case for the defence.

The third variation on current practice being considered is testing urine samples for age, to ensure that they are not simply stored samples which have been catheterised into a competitor's bladder before a test.

Of the tests carried out this year, a total of 877 were done out of competition. In theory, this means no notice, a knock on the door, a hand on the shoulder and accompaniment until the sample is produced. In practice, such instant opportunities do not always present themselves, although Verroken insists the majority of such testing has been either at no-notice or within one hour.

Unusual behaviour in those requested to comply is noted. There are those who become nervous, or try to delay giving a sample.

In such cases, random testing becomes targeted testing. As in the case of the Irish Olympic gold medalist Michelle Smith, the testers will make it their business to return.

Verroken's take on the booming phenomenon of creatine echoes the BOA line.

"We get a lot of enquiries about creatine," she said. "A lot of people are concerned about it. Of course, it is not prohibited. But we are talking carefully to the people who know best - the sports nutritionists and physiologists.

Apart from doubts over possible long-term side-effects, Verroken points to another worrying factor - "maybe you have found yourself not improving in performance, so your answer is to change your level of creatine. That's the danger, not just of creatine, but of anything that comes along as the so-called new wonder drug."

What performance-enhancing drugs have you used?				
Figures are percentages of respondents' replies				
	None	Up to 30 per cent	30-60 per cent	More than 60 per cent
Athletics	3	61	9	7
Cricket	61	17	25	0
Football	35	56	2	0
Horse racing*	85	13	23	0
Rugby league	0	8	81	0
Rugby union	41	50	0	4
Tennis	0	50	0	20
Weightlifting**	25	54	5	4
Total	25	54	5	12

*Jockeys **includes power lifting

Do you believe performance-enhancing drugs are widespread in your sport?

Figures are percentages of respondents' replies

Yes No Don't know

Swimming

65 33 2

*Swimmers were the first sportsmen and women to be polled in our survey. In order to seek more detailed information, the wording of this question was subsequently changed to the more specific question above used for other sports

These findings are compiled from responses to a questionnaire The Independent sent to more than 1,300 leading British sportsmen and women. There were more than 300 responses. The results reflect experiences of competitors in nine sports: athletics and swimming (leading Lottery-funded

competitors from both sports), cricket (players from first-class counties), football (Premier League and Nationwide League), horse racing (leading jockeys), rugby league (Super League), rugby union (Premiership One), tennis (all Britons in world top 1,000) and weightlifting (international level). In two

sports, cycling and rowing, the governing bodies declined the invitation to take part. In boxing and snooker the response rates fell below 10 per cent and the results are not included. Participants were able to reply anonymously, but were invited to give their gender and age.

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Likely lads nearing their half century

Clive Brittain, who trained Pebbles, and his head lad Michael Leaman still need each other; now they are 64. By Sue Montgomery

TWO MEN, two lives, one passion. On Monday in London Clive Brittain and his good friend Michael Leaman celebrated nearly half a century together in racing. One is famous as the trainer of equine celebrities like Pebbles and User Friendly, the other famous only within the bounds of the stable yard that housed them.

But Brittain is only too conscious of the debt that he and his ilk owe to Leaman and other behind-the-scenes professionals. Behind every successful front-man there is a dedicated team, and Brittain led the applause as one of the linch-pins of his Cariburg squad picked up the award for Stable Lad of the Year at the Horserace Writers Association annual luncheon.

Stable lad is rather an anachronism of a term that can refer to both the callowest, most ham-fisted youth that ever laid hold of a bridle and the experienced, trustworthy men without whom no racing stable would exist. Leaman is Brittain's head lad in charge of feeding, and that old adage about an army marching on its stomach is redoubled in spades

where racehorses are concerned. No athlete can perform well on the wrong rations, particularly the finicky thoroughbred version.

Brittain and Leaman, both now 64, joined Noel Murless at Beckhampton in Wiltshire within a few months of each other as raw school-leavers. Brittain's story, how he worked his way up the ranks, set himself up on the proceeds of his betting and went on to train the winners of five English Classics, has oft been told.

Leaman's tale has more of a twist in it. Dawlish-born, he was already aware of horses before the film *Rainbow Jack* prompted the idea of a glorious career as a jockey. His first ride came when, as a tiny tot, he scrambled up on to the broad back of one of the shire horses on the farm where his grandfather worked. His second was less comfortable, on a donkey on a schoolfriend's farm. "We'd get on it in the field bareback and it would run to the gate," he said, "but I never lasted that far. I never really thought of riding properly, but then that film put it in my mind. I was small, after all, and

weighed about five stone."

Enquiries at the local labour exchange led to a month's trial at Beckhampton. The little Devon lad was immediately told off for frightening the horses as he clattered round the cobbled yard in his hob-nails, but his feeling for horses and his diligence were immediately apparent and he easily earned the proper horseman's jodhpur boots given to those signed indentures.

Leaman did eventually don bright jockey silks, just the once. But he had soon realised that his destiny might not, after all, be on the track in what is perceived as the glamour part of the sport. "I simply love looking after horses," he said, "dressing them over, getting to know them, seeing them shine with health. I didn't know that until I went into racing, but think I must get it from my grandfather. He was never happier than when he was showing those shires, or getting them ready to show."

Leaman and Brittain both moved with Murless to Newmarket but then their paths diverged. Rather to Murless's annoyance, for he lost a man

who had become a valued work-rider. National Service interrupted Leaman's career when he was 20, just after he had had his first ride in public, unplaced on Meerschaum in an apprentice contest at the 1954 Craven meeting.

The break was ostensibly for only a couple of years but actually for 16, for when Leaman came out of the army, having learned to cook and to box, his family circumstances meant he had to stay in the West Country.

But it says much for the regard in which Murless held him that, during the few weeks he returned to headquarters to install his young brother Tony – now one of Geoff Wragg's senior men – at Warren Place he slotted back into his former role and was given the responsibility of partnering one of the yard's best two-year-olds, Crepello, the following year's Derby winner, on the Heath. Leaman did not enjoy his time at racing, particularly the

11 years he spent in a Weston-super-Mare shoe factory. "Any-one who thinks racing is a hard life," he said, "should have tried working for Clarks in the making department in the heat, noise and smell of glue."

And when Brittain started training, he came back to horses. He names the St Leger winner Julie Mariner as the best he has looked after, and Supreme Leader as the bravest.

His day generally ends later

Michael Leaman, head lad to the trainer Clive Brittain, tends to his charge at the Cariburg stable in Newmarket

Robert Hallam

than it might, for he still does one horse, just to keep his hand in. "I like to have a horse to look after," he said. "My horse. And I find that I do spend time strapping him, in the old way, just as I was taught. It's second nature somehow."

Brittain's tribute to his old comrade sums it all up. "He is the most reliable man I have ever met," the trainer said, "and I am proud to be called his friend."

His day generally ends later

LEICESTER

HYPERION

1.00 BOWCLIFFE COURT (nap) 2.30 Perryman
1.30 Lets Be Frank 3.00 Everything's Rosy
2.00 Febulon

SCORING: Chase course – Good; Hurdle course – Soft.
■ Course is 2m SE of city of LEI, Leicester station (London, St Pancras – Sheffield 2hr 20m) 2ADMISSIONS Club 13; Tattersalls 1/20 (GAPS 100 Picnic car 225 admits car and four occupants. Free racebooks. CAR PARK 100). Mrs J Pittman 0-44 (15/2), N Hetherington 0-25 (25%), Mrs J Pittman 0-44 (15/2), N Hetherington 0-25 (25%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 15-52 (20%), A. Murphy 12-59 (20%), M. Flanagan 9-49 (18%), G Bradley 7-36 (17%), W. Merson 7-69 (17%).
■ FAVOURITES: 89-263 (33%).

BUNKERED FIRST-TIME: Perryman (reduced 2.30), Winn's Pride (3.00).

1.00 OAK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m

1.00 MISS UNDEE (FTR) 119 (D) I C M. B. & R. Barakatian M Pipe 4-1 3-0 ... A P McCoy
1-223 TURFILL HOUSE (182) (CD) J. Haworth W Merson 6 3-0 ... N Williamson
2-214 TURFILL HOUSE (182) (CD) J. Haworth W Merson 6 3-0 ... N Williamson
3-215 SHAMHAN (19) (D) E. C. Smith 6 3-0 ... S Durkin
4-225 SURAHON (19) (D) Miss G. Hanefi 5-0 Hare 6 3-0 ... J. Tilley
5-202 ERINY (USA) 14 (D) Lady Anna Berndtson J. Gurn 5 0-1 ... A Maguire
6-255 HIGH LOW (USA) 21 (D) A Jones 10 0-0 ... Miss E. Jones

SCORING: Chase course – Good; Hurdle course – Soft.

BETTING: 1.5-3 Bowcliffe Court, 3-1 Ering, 7-2 Miss Undee, 8-1 Turfhill House, 12-1 Surahon, 14-1 High Low. 20-1 Shanyri.

1997 SCORING: 41 10 1 M Durak 5 0-0 ... J. Tilley 5 0-0 ...

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Shanyri: Missed last season, but won a novice hurdle at Ludlow (good to firm) in March. Has won 4 over 2 miles and 1000m. Last 2 runs have been on the flat, but has been raised 8lb, but is sound by a testing course and may prove hard to peg back.

High Low: Selling horse nowadays, but seems on the downgrade and has been dropped 10lb this season. 3rd in a Hereford seller last night does not look enough for over 3 months, but looks to have it all to do in giving 10lb to Bowcliffe Court.

Pitch to Papo Kharisma last week and a horse that has worked out well last month, he made all to win here last week and runs on the same mark.

1.00 SPRUCE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m

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Ramprakash sets himself up as target

MODERN CRICKET tours have no time for sympathy these days and just hours after England had drawn their game against Victoria, Graham Thorpe was winging his way back to London. But if that wasn't alarming enough for one day a nose to nippel confrontation between Mark Ramprakash and the 6ft 10in tall Ashley Gilbert added an unnecessarily controversial note to the final day's play.

While Thorpe was busy packing his bags for the flight home, Ramprakash, rarely the coolest of customers, was off-loading his own verbal baggage after Dean Headley had bounced the tall bowler first ball. On the previous day, when England had led, Gilbert had sledged Ramprakash, giving the Middlesex captain a double dose when he got him out mistiming a pull shot to mid-wicket while on 33.

Whatever was said on that occasion – allegedly it was no more colourful than a series of Anglo-Saxon expletives – it clearly niggled away at Ramprakash, who ran in from cover to have his say: Gilbert and Headley having already exchanged, presumably, differing viewpoints.

Although part and parcel of the game in Australia, the intensity with which Ramprakash took his point went beyond the normal bluster and it needed Alec Stewart, the England captain, to step in and defuse it.

Later Stewart tried to play the whole thing down by calling it the "Little and Large show", claiming that "it looked a lot worse than it was".

Despite the testosterone, it probably did, and neither uni-

CRICKET
BY DEREK PRINGLE
in Melbourne

England 373 & 207 dec
Victoria 300 & 246-8
Match drawn

pire saw fit to lodge a code of conduct report. But if Ramprakash's actions were not sanctioned by authority, they will not have gone unnoticed by Australia, who are merciless at exploiting an opponent's weaknesses, be it emotional or technical. As Ramprakash has batted well against them in the Tests, some serious sledging could well be in the offing.

Curiously, emotion was the one thing largely missing when the England management announced Thorpe's departure. While his team-mates teased and tempted Victoria into chasing a target of 280, the Surrey man gave a curiously matter-of-fact press conference. "The Ashes is the biggest series we get to play in and it's a big disappointment to take no further part," Thorpe said. "Obviously I'd have liked to help the team get back into the series, but when your time's up you have to go and I wish the lads well."

Including A tours, Thorpe has represented England on each of the last nine winter tours. It is a vast amount of playing and travelling to have undertaken and any disappointment may well have been cancelled out by a sub-conscious feeling of relief.

The impact on England's morale, if not devastating, could not have come at a worse time, and England's hopes of clawing one back in Adelaide will be that

bit harder without their nuggety left-hander to oversee the middle order. Surprisingly for a tour where little has gone right and bad backs have been as common as bad batting, no replacement has been summoned.

It is a risky situation to be in and England's only contingency, should a batsman be injured in the next day or so, is to call on someone already playing in the general area. Adam Hollioake, currently in Perth, and Vince Wells, busy playing in New Zealand, are two players mentioned by Stewart who fit that particular bill.

Bodies can only stand so much, something administrators with their plans of increasing the amount of international cricket do not seem to understand. But if things are not likely to improve over the short term – the ECB plans to play up to seven Tests and at least five one-day internationals from the year 2000 – Thorpe is determined to be part of England's future and has scotched suggestions that this might be his last appearance at Test level.

"I don't think I'm at the age for hanging my boots up yet," he said. "It's really a question of sitting down and going back to the workshop and getting it right. It doesn't feel as chronic as it felt before I had the operation, so with time and effort I plan to put in, I hope to get there as soon as possible."

Thorpe's condition, described by the England physiotherapist, Wayne Morton, as "non-specific lower back pain", comes from instability and weakness in the lower back, something he will have to improve with strengthening exercises.

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Angus dominates in beefy show

RUGBY UNION

By CHRIS HEWITT
at TwickenhamCambridge University 16
Oxford University 12

COUNTLESS THOUSANDS of pin-striped alumni still appear to treasure the Varsity Match as a quintessentially English occasion, which must be the biggest joke to hit Oxbridge rugby circles since a certain Simon Halliday relieved a limping Stuart Barnes of one of his crutches, poked out the nearest window, returned the said implement to its rightful owner and sprinted into the distance, leaving his helpless colleague to face the music.

It is the best part of a decade since the second Tuesday in December had much to do with this particular sceptred isle; indeed, we might as well rename it Commonwealth Day and have done with it. Yesterday's teams featured five Australians apiece as well as five Englishmen, and the cosmopolitan flavour was further enhanced by three New Zealanders, three Irishmen, a couple of Americans and a smattering of French and Japanese. Not much use to Clive Woodward, perhaps, but a definite recruitment opportunity for Kofi Annan.

Under the circumstances, it was no great surprise that a big hoke from Brisbane - one of two big hokes from the same Brisbane family. Indeed - should have dominated proceedings to such an extent that it would have been a travesty of justice had he been denied a winner's tankard. Angus Innes, a 27-year-old post-graduate student, made an unholly mess of a vaunted Oxford pack in both tight and loose and can consider himself grossly short-changed by the Light Blues' eventual margin of victory.

Ironically enough, Innes, who played in the Cambridge second row alongside his slightly smaller and marginally less effective brother Hamish, would have been even more productive had he completed an obvious scoring opportunity at the end of the first quarter. Much to his embarrassment, he was pulled down short of the line by Nathan Ashley, a mere centre, albeit an Australian one. The five points would very definitely have been registered had the Wallaby Under-21 cap used the reinforcements lining up outside him, but lock forwards have never been great students of the overlap theory of rugby.

Still, he did more than enough in every other phase of the game to earn Cambridge a decisive advantage in the one operational area that had seri-



Master of the Twickenham aerial combat: Angus Innes soars to take another line-out ball for Cambridge as Oxford's Andrew Roberts puts in a fruitless leap Peter Jay

ously concerned their coach, Tony Rodgers. "We knew Oxford would give it the Plan A treatment - drive it through the forwards and use their scrum-half as their pivotal figure," said Rodgers, who had the pleasure of seeing his son, Stefan, claim Cambridge's second try five minutes into the second half. "But our own pack is an under-rated unit and we ended up playing all the rugby."

Much of that rugby came from Mark Denney, the former Bristol and Wasps centre. By

far the most physical and threatening threequarter on view, he emulated his try-scoring exploits in last year's Varsity Jamboree by ripping around the short side of a solid Cambridge scrum inside the Oxford 22 and outpacing Shaun Barry and Richard Woodfine en route to the left corner. It brought the Light Blues level at 5-5 and they would not be headed again.

Rodgers' bustling try, largely created by a sharp thrust and lay-off from the accomplished

Denney, was followed by two penalties from Paul Moran, Cambridge's Auckland-born outside-half. At 16-5 down, Oxford had little option to move the ball as far away from the Innes brothers as possible, but although their adventure earned them a late score from Nick Humphries, Moran proved more than able in running down the clock with some cultured long-distance punting.

It might conceivably have been different had Oxford's slippery

right wing, Nick Booth, capitalised on his own early opportunist try by goaling the eight points presented him on the proverbial plate during a frantic opening 40 minutes. All eight went begging, however, and although Steve Hill, the Oxford coach, reassured everyone afterwards that Booth had struck each of his kicks "quite beautifully", his failure to strike them in the right direction undermined his side's chances of a first Varsity victory in five outings.

"Of course I can see Oxford winning this fixture in the near future," insisted Hill, who is now contemplating the ignominy of a record six defeats on the bounce. "We were close out there; it's not as if we've gone down by 30 points." Fair comment. But having seen his game plan blown clean out of south-west London by a Cambridge pack that was considered seriously suspect, he must now be in equally serious danger of a ritual debagging on the college lawns.

Oxford: tries Booth, Humphries, conversion Booth; Cambridge: tries Denney, conversion Denney. Points: Hill, Moran.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: R Woodfine (St Edmund Hall); N Booth (Worcester); N Ashley (University); K Shuman (University); M Humphries (St Edmund's); R Goss (University); S Hodge (University); A Collins (University); P O'Connor (St Edmund's); A Reuben (University); A Roberts (University); M Callender (St Edmund's); M Goss (University); S Hodge (University); D McAllister (St Cross); D McAllister (St Edmund's).

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: R Morris (University); M Robinson (University); M Denney (University); M Morris (University); M Moran (University); C Hart (University); S Rodgers (University); C Hart (University); M Morris (University); G Peacocke (University); M Foulds (University); S Egan (University); A Hodge (University); O Sack (University); H Whittord (University); M Hassett (University). Referee: E Morrison (Bristol).

Hopa dies in scuba diving training accident

By ANDREW BALDOCK

THE NEW ZEALAND international, Aaron Hopa, died yesterday in a scuba diving training accident on the Coromandel Peninsula. He was pronounced dead after he had received cardio-pulmonary resuscitation for about 50 minutes.

Hopa, 27, is thought to have drowned while completing a diving course with seven other members of his Waikato team. The loose forward played four matches, but no Tests, for the All Blacks during their tour of Great Britain late last year.

Hopa had been named in the All Blacks' summer training

squad to prepare for the World Cup. "There was no doubt in our minds that he was going to play a large part in our planning for next year," said the All Blacks' coach, John Hart.

He described Hopa as "a quiet achiever, a very quiet man, very focussed. He was a very humble sort of person, an excellent role model and a person whose life has been taken in the prime of his time."

London Irish have confirmed that preliminary discussions have taken place with the fi-

nancially-troubled Oxford United about a ground share next season. Irish, whose plans to build a 15,000 all-seater stadium at their Sunbury home have been rejected by councillors, could become tenants of Oxford's new Minchery Farm site. But the Allied Dunbar Premiership club say it is only one of several options currently being explored.

Toulouse and their international prop, Franck Tournaire, effectively walked free from yesterday's European Rugby Cup disciplinary hearing in Dublin.

A policeman's helmet was knocked off as Toulouse players remonstrated with match officials, while police also attended an incident in the Ebbw Vale clubhouse later that evening.

"Toulouse have got away with it," said the Ebbw Vale chief executive, Ray Harris.

"From my point of view, it was a wasted journey. I didn't want to see Toulouse kicked out of the competition but I am disappointed and dumbfounded by the outcome."

A statement from ERC said:

"In the case of the complaint

against Franck Tournaire, the committee considered he had made unnecessary contact with the touch judge. The committee did not, however, consider this contact to be threatening, but they emphasised strongly that no contact should ever be made with a match official."

Anthony Sullivan hopes to make his comeback from injury for Cardiff in Saturday's friendly against Richmond. The Great Britain rugby league wing, who is half-way through a three-month loan deal at the Arms Park, suffered a shoulder

injury in Wales A's defeat by Argentina last month. He is back in training and is rated as a 50-50 chance for the weekend.

Bath were given their second tough draw of the season with a trip to Saracens in the second round of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup. The European champions also face a testing Tetley's Bitter Cup four-round trip to Newcastle on 9 January.

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER CUP
Second-round draw: Bristol v Moseley or Newcastle; Leicester or Rugby v Bedford or Coventry; Gloucester v Cheltenham; Bath v Cardiff or Sale; Saracens v Bath.

TODAY'S NUMBER

27

The percentage of Australian students in a survey who rate cricket as the sport most likely to lose popularity over the next 25 years. Basketball and rugby were the next least popular, with Australian Rules, football, triathlon and beach volleyball the most popular.

Ingle split confirmed by Hamed

BOXING

NASEEM HAMED confirmed yesterday that he has split up with his long-time trainer Brendan Ingle. Hamed will leave the Wincobank gymnasium in Sheffield where he has been training since the age of seven, and will also stop working with Ingle's sons John and Dominic.

The partnership was tarnished by Ingle's controversial comments in a recent book, *The Paddy and the Prince*.

Hamed said: "You cannot dismiss the time we have spent together - we have shared some very special times that I will remember for ever."

Hamed retained Ingle as a "supervisor" for his last World Boxing Organisation feather-weight title defence, against Wayne McCullough in October. However, he appeared to disregard advice from Ingle.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
7.30 unies stated
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
GROUP A
Croatia Zagreb v Olympiacos (7.45) ...
Porto v Ajax (7.45) ...

GROUP B
Athletic Bilbao v Galatasaray (7.45) ...
Juventus v Rosenborg Trondheim (7.45) ...
GROUP C
Real Madrid v Spartak Moscow (7.45) ...
Sturm Graz v Valencia (7.45) ...
GROUP D
Brondby v Barcelona (7.45) ...
Manchester Utd v Bayern Munich (7.45) ...
Lyon v Dynamo Kiev (7.45) ...
Panathinaikos v Arsenal (7.45) ...
GROUP E
Kaiserslautern v HJK Helsinki (7.45) ...
PSV Eindhoven v Benfica (7.45) ...
GROUP F
Chelsea v Aston Villa (7.45) ...
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
St Johnstone v Hearts (7.45) ...
AUTO INSURANCE SHIELD
SOUTHERN SECTION
FIRST ROUND
Millwall v Cardiff (7.45) ...
REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Ryman League v FA XI (at Harrow Borough); Ryman League Third Division South v Clapton.

DR MELLITERS LEAGUE CUP: First-round replays: Bury v Bury Accrington (2) & Halesowen Town (1); Solihull Borough (3) & Blackpool (4).

UNIVERSITY LEAGUE Challenge Cup: Second-round replays: Bury Accrington (2) & Blackpool (4); Cheltenham (1); Solihull Borough (3) & Blackpool (4).

HEXHAM EASTERN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Felton v Town & Bury Town.

HEXHAM WISSESS LEAGUE: CUP Second Round first leg: Donington & Cowes Sports (1) v Eastleigh (3) & Fareham (3).

CHALLENGE MATCHES: Peterborough (1) v Brandon University (7.30).

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 Blackpool v Newcastle
2 Derby v Chelsea
3 Everton v Southampton
4 Leicester v Notts Forest
5 Middlesbrough v West Ham
6 Sheffield Wed v Charlton
7 Tottenham v Manchester Utd
8 Flaming Sunday: Aston Villa v Arsenal, Wembley v Liverpool.

Playing Monday: Leeds v Coventry.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
SECOND DIVISION

8 Bristol City v Crystal Palace
9 Huddersfield v West Bromwich
10 Ipswich v Bury
11 Oxford v Birmingham
12 DPR v Crewe
13 Sunderland v Port Vale
14 Swindon v Bolton
15 Tranmere v Bolton
16 Wrexham v Stockport
17 Wolves v Norwich
18 Playing Sunday: Portsmouth v Grimsby.

THIRD DIVISION

19 Blackpool v Wycombe
20 Bournemouth v York
21 Fulham v Burnley
22 Lincoln City v Colchester
23 Macclesfield v Luton
24 Manchester City v Bristol Rovers
25 Northampton v Chesterfield
26 Notts County v Preston
27 Oldham v Walsall
28 Stoke v Gillingham
29 Wigan v Wrexham
30 Wimborne v Yeovil.

BASKETBALL

CHRISTMAS CUP: Basingstoke Bison v Guildford Flames (7.30); Kingston Hawks v Edinburgh Capitals (7.30); Challenge Match: Peterborough (1) v Brandon University (7.30).

ICE HOCKEY

FOUR DIVISIONS: Blackburn v Newcastle, Derby v Chelsea, Everton v Southampton, Tottenham v Manchester Utd.

Pools forecast by Ian Davies

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The report ad

Purcell lured by Walsh to Hull

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

HULL HAVE continued their rebuilding for next season by signing the Illawarra hooker, Andrew Purcell, on a one-year contract.

Purcell has played under the Hull coach, Peter Walsh, at his Australian club and said that was a major factor behind his decision to move to The Boulevard.

"You can have the best contract in the world but if you're not happy and don't get on with the coach it can become a nightmare," said Purcell, who last season appeared 19 times in the first grade side for the club, which has now been merged with St George.

"Knowing Peter was crucial when it came to deciding and I also know some of the Sharks players from my time at Illawarra," he added.

Purcell's arrival ends any possibility of the New Zealander, Brad Hepi, returning to Hull. He is on the market after walking out of his rugby union stint with London Scottish but is not wanted back at The Boulevard and could now be destined for newly-promoted Wakefield Trinity.

Purcell is Hull's fourth close-season signing and the club also intends to announce two more new recruits - one of them an established international - tomorrow morning.

Halifax have secured the services of their Wales and Great Britain prop, Kelvin Skerrett, for another season.

"Kelvin was one of our impact players last season and his influence on the youngsters is invaluable," said David Hobbs, the football manager at the club, which surprised the game by rising to third place during a successful Super League season.

"Securing his services for next season was a major goal for our coach, John Pendlebury, and should reassure our supporters that our pack next season will be as strong and fearsome as ever."

The retention of Skerrett is an important step in the right direction for Halifax, who released his front-row partner and club captain, Karl Harrison, at the end of last season. Their efforts to sign another Test prop, Sheffield Eagles' Paul Broadbent, founded on the player's demand for a club car.

Speculation is now rife that Broadbent, the Sheffield captain, capped eight times by Great Britain, could be one of the two British signings to be unveiled at Hull tomorrow.

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The report ad

Houllier in bid to thwart Arsenal

GERARD HOULLIER, the Liverpool manager, is close to signing the French centre-half Cyril Depr-Domoraud in a £2m deal to prevent Arsène Wenger taking him to Arsenal.

The highly-rated Marseilles defender is in talks with Liverpool and could seal an agreement before the end of the week. Houllier is even willing to leave the French Under-21 international at Marseille for the rest of the season before bringing him to Anfield next summer.

Singer, looking to rebuild his defence next season, has also been in contact with Marseilles about the player.

Houllier is also considering an offer to take Cameroon centre-half Rigobert Song on trial. He is out of favour at Salernitana, but he needs a work permit, which is a major stumbling block. Liverpool already have two work-permit players and hope to sign the Croatian Silvio Maric shortly to take them up to the maximum of three. If the Croatia Zagreb winger Maric agrees to a £3m deal this week, Liverpool's interest in Song will fade.

David O'Leary will build his team around his first signing, David Batty, and does not mind upsetting whoever has to make way for the England midfielder.

The Leeds manager confirmed that Batty, who signed yesterday for £4m from Newcastle, will make his debut for his hometown club against Coventry on Monday, shunting into the sideways one member of the Leeds team who overwhelmed West Ham 4-0 last weekend. Batty has signed a four-and-a-half-year contract with the club he left for Blackburn in 1993.

"I am not going to play games with people. David will play on Monday if he is fit."

FOOTBALL
BY ALAN NIXON

O'Leary said: "If that upsets someone who has been in the team then it is tough. I don't care what the players think, I am trying to build something that is going to last for the next few years. I will spend money when I think it is right, the responsibility doesn't bother me."

O'Leary faces a dilemma in deciding who will make way for Batty. Midfielder David Hopkin is in his best form since arriving at Leeds, while Lee Bowyer has scored three goals in the last three games. The teenage striker Alan Smith and Norwegian utility man Alfie Haaland are favourites to be sacrificed.

Batty's signing brought to an end a protracted saga which had left the player, who celebrated his 30th birthday last Wednesday, contemplating his future in the game after Newcastle turned down Leeds' initial £4m bid.

After being told he would never play for the Magpies again after he handed in a transfer request to manager Ruud Gullit, Batty was relieved to finally set the seal on his return to Leeds.

"It has been a frustrating time," he said. "When I read the rumours that Leeds were initially interested I just hoped they were true. Certain things may have changed but it feels like I have never been away. There is a buzz about the place and these are exciting times."

"Although the last two weeks have been hard, as a whole Ruud handled it very well. I enjoyed playing with Newcastle but all my thoughts are for Leeds now. We have a young team and a young manager and this probably the most exciting period at the club for about five years."

The 3-0 home defeat by

THE ABERDEEN chairman, Stewart Milne, last night insisted he had not sacked Alex Miller after the manager's year-long reign at Pittodrie was brought to an abrupt end earlier in the day.

Milne insisted that the Scotland assistant manager's departure "with immediate effect" was a mutual decision arrived at after two days of extensive discussions and searching.

Milne confirmed at a hastily-convened news conference that Miller's increasingly inglorious battle to arrest the club's slump in fortunes was at an end after a run of just one win in 16 games.

But an overall record of just 11 wins from 43 games had already left the former Hibernian

Dundee United late last month brought pressure to bear on the 49-year-old Miller and Saturday's humiliating 4-0 defeat at Kilmarnock appears to have been the last straw.

That result sent Aberdeen to the bottom of the Premier League and left Milne contemplating a change of manager for the second time in just over 12 months after Roy Aitken's departure last November.

Milne appeared to have steered the ship as the Dons retained their top-flight status last year and briefly topped the new SPL at the beginning of this term.

But an overall record of just 11 wins from 43 games had already left the former Hibernian

manager facing the wrath of disgruntled supporters unhappy at the team's dour style under his command.

Chairman Milne was forced to deny last week that a group of wealthy local businessmen - who form the affluent AFC Club at Pittodrie - were poised to launch a takeover bid unless action was taken to tackle the club's plight.

Milne appears to have been made the scapegoat, but Milne was anxious to stress his exit was by mutual consent. "I would like to make it clear I haven't sacked the manager but that we have agreed that it is right that he moves on at this time," he said.

"We have spoken for some

time over the past two days discussing matters and we have come to the conclusion, jointly, that it is in everybody's interests that Alex parts company with us."

From a personal point of view, I am obviously very disappointed at the way things have turned out. But I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alex for all the hard work he has put into this club and I wish him all the very best in his future career."

Milne, who has resisted the temptation to complain about the lack of substantial funds available for team rebuilding in recent weeks, was happy to confer with his former chairman.

"After a substantial amount

Pompey ready for player auction

BY GRAEME PATERSON

THE CHAIRMAN of Portsmouth is planning to sell players at knock-down prices to save the team from financial ruin. Martin Gregory is said to have drawn up a "bargain price list" of his squad to be circulated to every club in the country.

At the weekend, Gregory spent 48 hours discussing a takeover deal with the businessmen Vince Wolanin and Brian Howe, but the American-based pair flew home yesterday with the future of the club still uncertain.

Pompey's manager, Alan Ball, is said to be standing firm by the players, who yesterday staged a rebellion against Gregory when they learned he was planning to sell them off.

Following a meeting with the club's director, Peter Hinkinson, at Fratton Park yesterday, Ball said: "The chairman has got to tell the people exactly what is going on."

"I've insisted that he makes a statement. It's all very well hearing rumours about this and that, but he's got to tell people why I have been told to sell players. He has got to tell people the extent of the problems."

"One thing is for sure - I'm having no part in selling off this team to pay off debts. He says we have to sell players and I disagree with that and have told him that. I don't know where he will get the money from unless he gets a mass injection of cash from somewhere."

"I've got a four-year contract and I'm planning to see it out. I will work hard in my job to prepare the players for their game against Grimsby on Sunday. I am not going anywhere."

Portsmouth's captain, Adrián Whitbread, met senior players who yesterday decided to release a statement to *The News*, the city's newspaper.

Whitbread said: "We all got together and decided that we didn't want to go and we wanted to remain here and be loyal to the supporters who have been loyal to us all season. The manager does not want to sell anybody and we don't want to go."

The new Blackburn Rovers manager, Brian Kidd, is ready ready raid his old club, Manchester United, to add coach Tony Coton for his back-room team.

Kidd plans to recruit new faces for his staff - and the former goalkeeper Coton is being lined up to join him, along with Brian McClair.

Coton has been at United this season as their goalkeeping coach, but he works without a contract and is keen to step up the managerial ladder.

Dave Bassett is trying to sign the Swedish centre-half the Jesper Matisson for Nottingham Forest in a bargain deal. The Halmstad defender is due to arrive at Forest for talks this week about a move to the Premiership strugglers. He has a fixed fee of £300,000 in his contract.

Mattsson was due to join Huddersfield Town last month, but the deal collapsed when a well-fund takeover fell through at the First Division club.



David Batty (left) and Leeds manager David O'Leary are all smiles after the midfielder's £4.4m move from Newcastle yesterday Andrew Varley

Miller departure was 'mutual'

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"After a substantial amount

Eight charged over betting scam

Di Lella angers Fulham

HONG KONG'S graftbusters to engage in illegal bookmaking, the ICAC said.

The police sergeant, Tse Ping-wang, 43, faced two charges of bribing police superintendents for tip-offs about police raids on bookmaking centres.

The illegal bookmaking case came to light when the anti-corruption watchdog was investigating an alleged match-fixing case, an ICAC spokeswoman said. Last month, five Hong Kong soccer players were charged with match-fixing, including the rigging of a World Cup qualifier.

They were due to appear in court last night on a total of five charges, including conspiracy

and win HK\$200,000 (£16,050) from bets placed with a bookmaker. Hong Kong lost the game 3-0.

Chan Tsz-kong was sentenced in July to 12 months' jail after being convicted of rigging the match against Thailand.

The trial of four of the players - Lee, Lok, Chan and Wai - will begin on 13 January. The trial of Lau will start next March.

Lee, Lok, Chan and Wai were accused of conspiring with jailed national striker, Chan Tsz-kong, to ensure Hong Kong lost by two goals to Thailand in a World Cup qualifying match on 9 March 1997,

and win HK\$200,000 (£16,050) from bets placed with a bookmaker. Hong Kong lost the game 3-0.

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The Asian Football Confederation have decided to hold an emergency meeting next week to discuss a decision by Fifa, football's world governing body, to award just four places to the continent at the World Cup in 2002 - two of which will go to

Thailand and South Korea.

And the Argentinian forward Ariel Ortega has been suspended by his club Sampdoria yesterday following a drink-driving charge by police. Ortega's compatriot and team-mate Gaston Cordoba and Brazilian star Gerson have also been suspended by the club.

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A friendly international between Nigeria and Egypt originally scheduled to be played today has been called off by Nigerian officials after their Egyptian counterparts attempted to reschedule the game at the last minute for the second time.

Kenya have announced a £400,000 sponsorship deal with brewers Shepherd Neame. The sum represents a record for the county and will run for the next three years.

Seven cyclists from the Casino team are being questioned by French authorities investigating the doping scandal that overshadowed the Tour de France during the summer. judicial sources said yesterday. It was expected that the seven, who were not named, would be released yesterday afternoon.

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SPORT

CAMBRIDGE THE MASTERS OF OXFORD P26 • RAMPRakash NOT AMUSED IN VICTORIA P25

Parma end Rangers' hopes

BY KEN GAUNT
in ParmaParma 3
Rangers 1
Parma win 4-2 on aggregate

RANGERS' DREAMS of Uefa Cup glory died in the space of 20 minutes yesterday at the Tardini Stadium. The Scottish Premier League leaders conceded three goals in that spell after being reduced to 10 men in this third round, second-leg match.

The defender Sergio Porriini was sent off at the end of the first half by the Norwegian referee Gerge Hauge for his second bookable offence, both yellow cards the result of challenges on Juan Veron.

The Rangers manager, Dick Advocaat, was furious at the decision. "There was no reason to give that second yellow card to Porriini and it changed the face of the game," Advocaat said. "It made it very difficult to match Parma in the second half."

The Scots had been in the driving seat before Porriini's dismissal, with Jorg Albertz putting them 2-1 ahead on aggregate in the 29th minute. But they were left with a daunting task against a team of Parma's quality. The Italians have not lost in Europe for the past five years and are currently flying high in Serie A.

Abel Balbo pulled them level two minutes after the break but worse was to follow for Rangers. The substitute Stefano Fiore put Parma ahead in the 63rd minute and Enrico Chiesa sealed a place in the quarter-finals by scoring from the spot four minutes later.

Advocaat sprang a surprise before the game by omitting Andrei Kanchelskis. The Russian winger was expected to play a key role but instead Albertz retained his place. Gordon Durie was recalled to the front line with Jonatan Johansson suffering from a hamstring injury while Stephane Guivarc'h was ineligible.

But Rangers were forced on the back foot in the first half with Balbo squandering a good chance of giving Parma the



The Rangers defender Sergio Porriini fouls Parma's Juan Peron to earn himself a red card during yesterday's 3-1 Uefa Cup defeat at the Tardini Stadium

Warne
'secretly
fined'
on tour

CRICKET

BY JAKE LYNCH
in Sydney

IT EMERGED yesterday that two Australian Test cricketers were secretly fined by the Australian Cricket Board for accepting money from a bookmaker on the tour to Pakistan in 1994.

The Australian Cricket Board's chief executive, Malcolm Speed, confirmed that the two were fined A\$2,500 (£2,000) each for providing information about pitches and the weather to allow the bookmaker to formulate odds on the series. The news slipped out yesterday in an interview on a Melbourne radio station with the former Test player David Hookes. He said that he "understood" the players involved were Mark Waugh and Shane Warne.

The ACB, which would not itself name the pair, confirmed that it would be holding a news conference in Adelaide, where the Australian squad have gathered for Friday's third Ashes Test. The two players are expected to attend in person.

"The two players were fined after the tour of Pakistan," Speed confirmed. "They are both still prominent members of the Australian team."

Hookes said: "In 1994, a player accepted money from an Indian bookmaker to give a report on the ground and weather conditions for some of the upcoming matches in that series."

Hookes added he believed there was no suggestion of the player being bribed to influence the outcome of matches and that the player had gone to the ACB to seek advice.

"And I'm also led to believe that another player was also involved," Hookes said.

"It should be stressed that the first player, I believe, went to the ACB in 1994 after receiving some money and said he wasn't sure whether he was doing the right thing or the wrong thing," Hookes continued.

Empics

Parma: Buffon, Thuram, Sanson, Cannavaro, Fusco (Mussi, 84), Baggio, Bognanni (Fiore, 56), Berti, Veron, Balbo, Chiesa (Crescenzi, 74), D'Amato (Vidmar, 54). Substitutes: Nasri (90), Vassalli, Orlandini, Giunti.

Rangers: Niemi, Porriini, Hendry, Amoruso, Numan, Albertz, B. Ferguson (Miller, 31), Ferguson, Vidmar (Vidmar, 54). Substitutes: not used: Brown (90), Stencaas, Wilson, Kanchelskis.

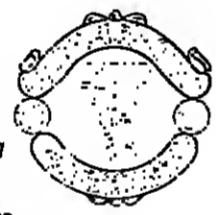
Referee: T Hauge (Norway).

■ The Borussia Dortmund keeper, Stefan Klos, has been given the all clear to hold talks with Rangers.

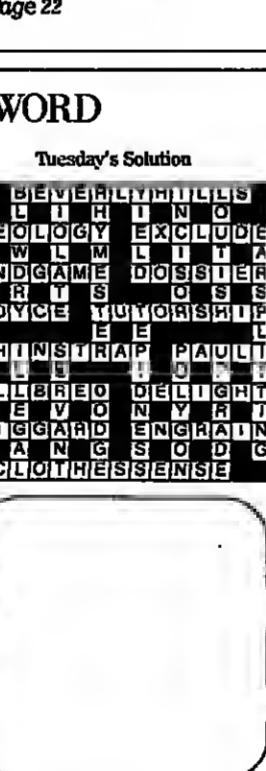
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INSIDE: WILL MANCHESTER UNITED OVERCOME MUNICH?



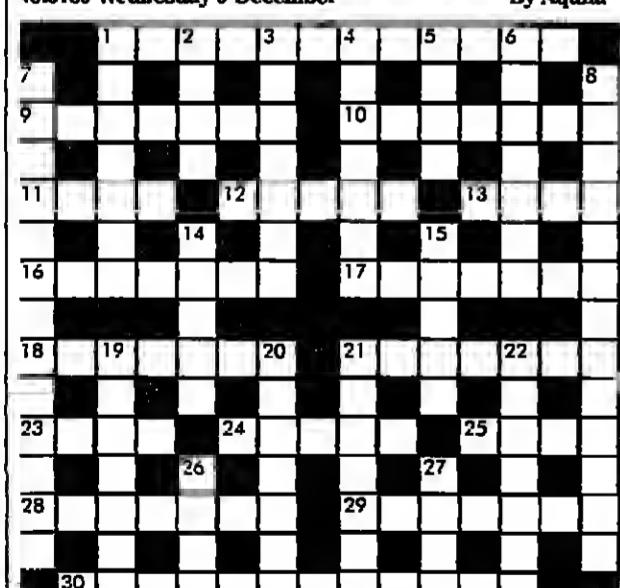
Glenn Moore assesses Alex Ferguson's team's chances of advancing past the German champions in tonight's decisive Champions' League group game... plus Arsenal in Greece and a guide to all the groups for a big night in Europe



No. 3789 Wednesday 9 December

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



ACROSS
1 When he treats roots, don't hit out! (12)
3 Interpret former US poet (7)
10 An alarming blood-count? (7)
11 Duke, say, holding maximum number of Western dollars? (4)
12 Sodium in California is cut (4)
13 Home fixture for City (4)
16 A dimmer-switch in the theatre (7)
17 Ursula has beer-drink? (3-4)
18 Uncommunicative types, these natives? (7)
21 Sculptor's hole-in-one (4)
23 Approaching doctor, it is (6)

24 Stops most of settlement (5)
25 Disapproved of in Central Constabulary (4)
26 Well versed in New Latin in respect of marriage? (7)
29 Rope pulled - to conform, say? (7)
30 Insured truck attached to train? (7,5)

DOWN
1 One who resists problem at work? (7)
2 Tense, being instructed by ear (4)
3 Card-game? Here is one, on the shelf (3,4)
4 Tests of gold shares? (7)
5 Cheeky drop in rent (4)
6 South American custom-built banger? (7)

Olympic movement in £15m clean-up vow

DRUGS IN SPORT

By MIKE ROWBOTTOM

will report their findings this week as the IOC prepares to host the first World Conference on Doping in Sport on 2-4 February next year.

"We want to create an independent doping agency with proper funding that will be able to instigate and co-ordinate testing worldwide," said the British IOC member Craig Reedie, who will present detailed plans for the scheme to an IOC executive committee meeting in Lausanne.

Reedie, the chairman of the British Olympic Association, believes it is crucial to the future of the Olympic Movement that it should play a more active part fighting doping abuse.

"Clearly the present system is imperfect," he said. "Attending to that will be part of the crusade. It is imperative that we get our message to all sports that Olympic sport is clean."

"The Olympic Movement has to put its house in order. It should then be allowed to deal with its own affairs. If not, it is probably its own dead. If not, it is Reedie is a key member of one of four working parties who

are to be set up to look at the issue.

"It is convenient to say we don't really care that much about substances that aren't dangerous," Reedie said. "But we have to care about them if they are performance-enhancing."

Reedie, and working party chairman Dick Pound, an IOC vice-president, will suggest the

THE PRESIDENT of the French rugby union is to demand the banning of creatine - the muscle-building supplement marketed as a 'legal steroid' - for next year's Five Nations' Championship and World Cup.

Bernard Lapasset will take advantage of the visit of the International Rugby Board president, Vernon Pugh, and the European Rugby Council president, Tom Kiernan, to Paris on Saturday to air his views.

new doping agency be funded by 'top-slicing' revenue generated by Olympic TV rights - thus sharing the cost right across the Movement.

"We believe that the programme is to the benefit of many," Reedie said. "Sponsors, sports goods manufacturers, the pharmaceutical industry - all have an interest in sport being clean." The new body, Reedie says, would be likely to use existing testing agencies of recognised high standard in countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Norway and Sweden. "In other countries," he explained, "we need to encourage international federations who are not running out-of-competition testing."

Reedie is hopeful that the problem of banned competitors reducing their penalties through appeals to civil courts can be overcome if the IOC is seen to have harmonised its policies as far as possible. "We need a unified and enforceable punishment system, so that if someone is given a two-year ban they can't reduce it on appeal to a civil court," he said.

The IOC executive committee will also receive a resolution from last month's meeting of European Olympic Committees calling for the right to establish eligibility criteria - including unannounced out-of-competition controls." As BOA chairman, Reedie is determined to defend the bylaw which rules any British competitor found guilty of serious doping abuse out of any future Olympics.

Among the other measures which would improve the situation in preventing doping in sport, Reedie highlights the need for standardising punishments, and putting more emphasis on research.

Authorities failing sport, page 23

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WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Didn't she do well? Jenny Saville's *Prop* fetched £51,000 at yesterday's Christie's auction. Its estimated price had been £10-15,000

Peter Macdiarmid

BritArt's big day out

They came to pay tribute (and £1.6m) to the good taste (and better judgement) of Charles Saatchi, the one-man art market...

Some came to praise BritArt. Some came hoping to see it buried. Some came to buy; others just to gawp. Yesterday in a warehouse next to Smithfield Market, London, British contemporary art had its biggest test. It had to be a warehouse as no Christie's showroom could accommodate Jake & Dinos Chapman's towering fibreglass sculpture of Professor Stephen Hawking in his wheelchair tottering on the edge of a cliff.

And with Damien Hirst's prime exhibit consisting of dozens of jars of internal organs of cattle, where better to sell it than next to the country's most famous meat market?

But those who climbed the corrugated iron stairs into the third floor of the incongruously makeshift saleroom yesterday were not bothered about the surroundings. Dealers, collectors, gallery directors, art students and anyone desirous of showing off at a dinner party needed the answer to the key question the afternoon would unlock: could the "Sensation" crowd of Hirst, Rachel Whiteread, Jake & Dinos Chapman *et al* cut the mustard any more?

Certainly, they could get exhibitions, Venice Biennale pavilions and critical acclaim. The art world establishment had taken the media darlings of the Brit Pack to its embrace and every cutting-edge space in the country has been theirs throughout the Nineties.

But did anyone want to buy them? Were Hirst's internal organs of cattle and Whiteread's sculpted space around a kitchen sink to be seen as eternal art, provoking philosophical questions and increasing in value each year, or as mere ephemera, the emblems of a faddish, over-hyped decade of student art now to be exposed as the emperor's new clothes?

The man taking the risk, not just for himself but for the entire art world and the auction houses, was Charles Saatchi, the collector and advertising agency co-founder, who had almost single-handedly discovered the Hirst generation. It was his £70m collection which was used for "Sensation" last year at the Royal Academy. Now he was offloading 5 per cent of it, 130 works by 97 artists, with the proceeds going towards bursaries for art students and funds for art colleges.

The warehouse was a sea of black, clearly the chosen Brit Pack colour. Even the collectors who stepped out of Rolls-Royces and Mercedes in the car park, wearing dark glasses in the grey drizzle to show this was the cutting edge, disdained colour as a tribute to the generation of artists who took art out of the gallery and into the warehouses and student shows.

Leaning against one of the tall, white pillars under the industrial tiling were some of the Young British Artists themselves. Sue Webster and Tim Noble were not up for auction on this occasion, but they were curious. "We want to know what this work is worth," they said. There in their financial security lay.

"We don't want to be part of a fashion," said Miss Webster, "as fashion always goes out of fashion." She had, at least, mastered the Saatchi soundbite.

In front of them sat the experienced art buyer Frank Cohen, the owner of an extensive collection that includes Damien Hirst. He said it remained difficult to determine the worth of work when the artists were still young and fresh. He

more like a trainspotter than an art buyer. But perhaps this is the new trainspotting.

As Mueck's *Big Baby* came up, one art student said in a loud stage whisper: "Save your money, it's only wax." He was hushed up. The artists are allowed to make jokes with their installations. The buyers are not.

The auctioneer mounted the wooden podium, flanked in startling contrast by the saleroom's bright red cloths. Richard Billingham's photographs of outsize women and Mueck's two-foot-high, oversized, polyester resin sculpture of a boy. The whole room went quiet. Except a genuine baby, squealing in its art-buying mother's arms, perhaps terrified by Mueck's version of itself staring wide-eyed and naked.

It might have been more terrified had its mother turned its face towards the Christie's screen. Or flashed up the first major lot – to non-art lovers, what seemed to be a page from the daily *Sport* featuring seven nudes. How little non-art lovers know. This was by one of the leaders of the Brit Pack, Sarah Lucas, and complete with title – *Severed Up* – and official description –

Saatchi collection. Had his championing of the 28-year-old artist paid dividends? It had. The top estimate was £15,000. It sold for £51,000. A few cognoscenti observed that she had a show soon at the Gagosian Gallery in New York. That, the sages mused, would have helped the price.

But no time to chat. The two big tests of the Brit Pack of Charles Saatchi's influence and of the market, had arrived. First came *Unfitted (Square Sink)* by Rachel Whiteread, a Turner Prize winner and Britain's representative at the last Venice Biennale. A picture of the "negative cast" of the sink came up on the screen. "It's the Rachel Whiteread," one woman whispered to her neighbour, somehow a more awe-inspiring whisper than "it's the kitchen sink". The auctioneer turned straight to the bank of telephones. "The bidding is between Henry and Laura," he said, signalling who must have been two Christie's employees rather than collectors, given away by their lack of black clothing.

Whiteread's negative sink, estimated to sell for £50,000, fetched £133,500. It was another telephone bid that took Damien Hirst's spot painting for £110,000. The faith in the Brit Pack had held. At a recent sale a Hirst spot painting failed to reach its estimate. That was a blip. The £122,500 was more than four times the estimate.

Though much higher than their estimates, the prices were still relatively economical in terms of saleroom masterpieces. BritArt is affordable, and there was considerable speculation that some of the telephone bidders might have been connected with the Tate, which has a new international gallery of modern art at Bankside and starring.

What a feast of the avant-garde. But the spectre at the feast was Charles Saatchi. In one afternoon he had offloaded 5 per cent of his collection, proved the marketability of young British artists and raised more than £1m for art students and art colleges.

And he was nowhere to be seen. The consensus in the room was that he was out "shopping", scouring the colleges for the next generation of Hirsts and Whitereds so that he could make their names, shock some more, earn some more, then offload them all in a good cause, naturally.

Additional reporting by Anne-Celine Jaeger

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Today's TV

The phonics success
Sir: Far from being embarrassed, as your article "New reading plan 'staggeringly good'" (report, 7 December) suggests, the Government is pleased that the new literacy hour is becoming a part of school days across England.

The emphasis on phonics, spelling and grammar in the National Literacy Strategy draws on research in over 500 schools where new evidence shows it to be effective. It represents an enormous cultural shift after some 30 years in which far too many teachers and schools dismissed the value of phonics.

We welcome research into effective use of phonics, although the research you quote was based on just eight schools. There is a range of phonics schemes which are entirely consistent with the National Literacy Strategy, and schools are free to choose among them. Where we find good ways of teaching phonics, of course we encourage them.

Coming on top of the £2,000 we have provided for books for every school in the country, £54m for the National Literacy Strategy means that all schools will be able to successfully implement the strategy, which has been shown to work.

ESTELLE MORRIS
Schools Standards Minister
Department for Education and Employment
London SW1

Sir: "Synthetic phonics" are not new or mysterious - they are not even Scottish. Thirty years ago, Kathleen Hickey was training teachers for the Dyslexia Institute, and showing them some simple techniques - arrange the alphabet letters in an arc, teach the first few sounds (l, t, p, n, s) then ask the child to make words from these letters.

Sound-letter links of increasing complexity were accumulated and rehearsed. Meanwhile, the skills learned by synthesis were being used in writing, and eased into reading real books.

Kathleen Hickey trained dozens of teachers; they have gone on to train hundreds of others.

"Synthetic phonics" are part of every Dyslexia Institute lesson, and commonplace in thousands of literacy hours.

MARGARET COMBLEY
Sheffield

Sir: I was delighted to read this morning, and have been since I first learned to do so. Discovering that synthetic phonics is accelerating the process for today's children was therefore excellent news.

I do hope, however, that mathematical ability will not be disadvantaged by a process which teaches six phonemes a day for eight days and achieves a total of only 42 sounds.

IAN MACDONALD

London W3

House-buying fiasco

Sir: You point out that house-hunting is not the same as house-buying (Neither a gazumped nor a gazundered be", 7 December), but state that the Government's proposed measures are "justified intervention" in the housing market. They are, in fact, foolish and a recipe for litigation.

Sellers and buyers are expected to respect the laws of supply and demand; a seller's estate agent is expected to conceal from his client the fact that he has received a higher offer for the property; negotiations for a house sale will never get anywhere beyond vacuous waffle in case the buyer commits himself unwittingly to a deal which, for example, he has not financed or the seller commits himself to a sale when he has nowhere else to go. For how long do you suggest that the parties are bound by their "agreement" before one is entitled to call time and sue for breach of contract?

You state that no change in the law is required, but as any law student will tell you, a promise by a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Winter Visitors No 3: As the day warms up, knot from Greenland take to the air en route to their feeding grounds on the Wash coastline David Rose

seller that he will not increase the price of the property is unenforceable unless the buyer makes some payment in exchange for that promise.

As for the extraordinary proposal that surveyor should be liable to anyone to whom the seller bandies around their survey, this would involve rewriting the law on negligent advice with widespread implications for all professional advisers.

What the Government appears to propose is a preliminary agreement, to be entered into before the usual contract, which will be subject to so many conditions and get-out clauses that it will not be an agreement at all.

Like many New Labour initiatives I doubt very much that we will hear much more of these proposals. **MARTIN FRASER**
Reading, Berkshire

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IAN MACDONALD

London W3

Asylum overhaul

Sir: Yasmin Alibhai-Brown's article "We shall be judged by them" (3 December) reminds us of the debate on asylum policy that we need to have in this country.

We are concerned about the proposed changes to how asylum-seekers are treated, as outlined in the White Paper on Immigration and Asylum. They do not adequately deal with the hundreds of people seeking asylum in Britain who are dependent on hand-outs from the voluntary sector and religious organisations because state support is inadequate.

This is not Victorian England. In the 1990s, no one should have to help asylum-seekers in such a paternalistic fashion.

As well as reconsidering the White Paper proposals, the whole philosophical underpinning of asylum policy needs a radical rethink. As part of this, the Government would do well to

clarify what steps it is taking to counter the negative stereotyping of asylum-seekers that has been displayed by certain sections of

the Press. The current spate of newspaper stories have strong resonances with those that surrounded the arrival of Jewish refugees fleeing from Russian and Nazi persecution throughout this century.

Britain will never just, multi-racial society until these issues are tackled.

DR EDIE FRIEDMAN
Director
Jewish Council for Racial Equality
London W1

Sir: The Home Secretary has created a rod for his own back by not accepting the Schengen agreement, so that it is still possible for asylum seekers coming overland from Eastern Europe to pass the "international frontier" on the British coast, and be able to claim asylum ("Romanians' bid for freedom ends in jail", 8 December).

If, as intended by the Treaty of Rome and the Single European Act 1986, this coastal frontier was simply an internal one, asylum-

seekers would have to return to the last international frontier that they had passed, which would be the eastern external frontier of the European Union.

So come on Mr Straw, under the Treaty of Amsterdam, Article 4, you can take part in all the provisions of Schengen. We are supposed to be at the heart of Europe, and yet we have three passport checks on incoming Eurostars.

Your administration is anxious to bring the benefits of the Union to the ordinary person, and nothing is more beneficial than the free movement of persons.

Eurostar might start to make a profit at last, and the truckers will not have to dump their stowaways on the steps of your office.

PETER M HAWKINS
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire

Gulf veterans' plight

Sir: You report (2 December) that Ministry of Defence police, trying to recover documents relating to

the use of depleted uranium ammunition in the Gulf war, have raided the homes of two veterans.

As a patron of the Royal British Legion Branch of the Gulf Veterans' Association I would deplore any action by veterans which might carry them outside the law in their efforts to draw attention to the plight of their many sick comrades. The two men are not members of the branch and I hope they have taken no action which would detract from the vital service its officers provide to Gulf veterans and their families.

Breaking the law cannot be condoned. Nevertheless, the raids have highlighted the culture of denial that has pervaded the Ministry of Defence since the first reports of sickness in members of Her Majesty's armed forces returning from the Gulf in 1991.

There may be as many as 5,000 British servicemen and women whose quality of life has been seriously affected since the Gulf war. Their suicide rate is running at unacceptable levels. In the absence of definitive causation,

we should not be surprised if they attempted to find their own answers to the many questions raised by the polymorphous nature of their illnesses. Sadly, some choose to publicise information which may be misleading and which, I am aware, creates an element of panic in some of the more susceptible veterans.

It is now nearly eight years since the Gulf war. Is it not time for the Government to relax its defensive posture, listen to and believe the sick veterans and provided them with the medical diagnosis, treatment and financial support they rightly seek?

On 11 June 1998 the Royal British Legion wrote to the Prime Minister asking for a public inquiry into the way in which the aftermath of the Gulf war has been handled. They have not had the courtesy of a response. Until we know the answers to all the questions associated with Gulf war illnesses we are not going to be able to prevent a repetition in the future. There should be an immediate public inquiry.

THE COUNTESS OF MAR
House of Lords
London SW1

LibDems target tax

Sir: Steve Richards ("When will New Labour face up to the truth about taxes?", 7 December) gives a timely warning. It is only the existence of an independent Liberal Democrat party which is keeping this issue on the agenda.

This is one of many reasons why, as Paddy Ashdown has often said, "If we did not exist, it would be necessary to invent us."

EARL RUSSELL
House of Lords
London SW1

Van in a million

Sir: Can you please tell me where I can get a white van like that driven by the 28-year-old Mancunian in Alex Hayes' article "Highway robbery on the M6" (Review, 7 December)?

It is stated to have been carrying 150 crates with 2,500 pints of beer in each crate. This makes 375,000 pints or some 210 tons dead weight of beer alone.

Counting packaging, the total weight must have been some 250 tons (aluminium cans) or 300 tons (glass bottles).

Some 375,000 pints have a volume of 7,500 cubic feet (say, the equivalent of about six or eight average domestic garages or half an Olympic swimming pool) and that's just the beer itself - packaging would at least double that.

Wow, what a van! And if this is a small-time smuggler, what's a big-time one?

N A WALTER
Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex

Scotland in the EU

SIR PETER GRESHAM

Letter, 4 December

December)

assumes that in the

event of the breakup of the United Kingdom, Scotland would be thrown out of the EU but England would remain a member.

It is the United Kingdom that is

a member of the EU. The United

Kingdom is a union of equals and

Scotland is not merely a separate

province but a distinct country.

If the break of the "United"

Kingdom results in the expulsion

of one of the constituent

countries, that should apply

equally to the remainder.

It is perceived arrogance auch

as Mr Gresham's that fuels the

drive towards separatism in

Scotland.

ANDREW THORNBURY

Aberdeen

"Now this is pretty serious, Benedict. We have kept a tab on the rising stars of 1996, the ones that you tipped a year ago, and very few of them seem to have perceptibly risen at all. A lot of readers have written in, wondering why we got it so wrong. Before I sack you and your critics, is there anything you'd like to say?"

If it had happened, and Benedict had had any sense, he'd have said: "Yes. It's just a game, you do. It's a cheerful way of filling space at the end of the year. It doesn't mean anything and nobody takes it that seriously."

Bit like the weather forecast, really. And the political soothsayers. And the football previewers. And the share tippers. And the fashion crystal-gazers. And... well, pretty well everyone, really.

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS is right

to put the world's attention on crime against human dignity. It has been used to oppose apartheid and many other human rights violations. Why then, has it failed to make Sudan a

part of the world's condemnation of its even though its dictatorship is arguably the worst human rights violator in the world.

Wer they wrong to do this?

My moral compass tells me we were at fault because the

right thing to do.

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We should not be afraid of controlled human cloning

THE EMOTIONS raised by human "cloning" are predictable, and have been in play again following the expert recommendation that scientists should be permitted to clone human embryos in the very early stages of development. Critics complain that an important principle will be breached; for the first time, human beings themselves will be produced outside the normal course of sexual reproduction, raising the possibility, albeit distant, that scientists could raise identical humans to adulthood.

Authorising such experiments on human embryos would indeed be a momentous step, which an amount of renaming of the subject will disguise. The Human Genetics Advisory Commission (HGAC) and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) employ new terminology to make their case. Cell Nucleus Replacement is the term scientists use for cloning embryos less than 14 days old; but this will indeed mean that human beings, albeit embryonic, will have been cloned.

We should not be afraid of this step. We do not, in any case, treat embryos as we do human beings after birth: limited experimentation is already legal within 14 days of fertilisation, and this latest development holds out far greater medical benefits than the types of experiment that are already allowed.

If doctors in the future were able to clone organs from our bodies, the rejection of transplants might be averted. If "harvesting" brain cells could replace cells damaged by disorders such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease, much more pain and misery would be averted.

These are the hopes of scientists working on cloning embryos, since if they can clone the so-called "stem cells", the parents of all future cells in the body, they may learn how to govern the growth of those cells. Ministers should not deny the alleviation of human suffering via embryo research, a principle that has already been conceded, because of some inarticulate public unease.

What the public object to is the threat of reproductive cloning, whereby human beings would be duplicated. Yesterday's report rules this out, separating the process of repairing damaged tissues from the morally repugnant threat of reproducing ourselves. It is true that a cloned embryo could in theory grow into a person similar to the "parent" embryo, if implanted into a human womb; but legislation needs to respond to technological advance, and distinguish therapeutic research from reproduction.

New scientific developments always make us uneasy, challenging our views of right and wrong. But if scientists can cure diseases blighting millions, then they should be allowed this limited freedom to clone human embryos, just as they would clone animal cells. The reality is that the clock cannot be turned back, nor the future averted.



A genuine attempt to help the vulnerable

THE GOVERNMENT'S "Third Way" has often been just a vacuous phrase. In his proposals for care in the community, Mr Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, has gone some way to endowing the phrase with meaning.

Bulldozing the Victorian piles within which society incarcerated the mentally ill was an action born of the best intentions; their state was a standing affront to a civilised society. It was a very real achievement of the Conservative government that they began to tackle that scandal.

But the policy went too far towards assuming that release was the best cure for all. Combined with a lack of resources, this was a recipe for disaster. A series of high-profile violent crimes committed by patients released into the community rightly brought this to the attention of an

anxious public. Last month an independent inquiry criticised a London local authority for not providing adequate back-up care to Michael Folkes, who stabbed his girlfriend to death after being released into the community.

Mr Dobson's ideas are mostly welcome corrections, providing more services to fill the gap between hospital and unsupervised release. To be effective, the drugs that have allowed many mentally ill people to live relatively normal lives since the Fifties and Sixties have to be taken; often the problem is that unsupervised patients forget this, and relapse. When Christopher Unwin stabbed Jonathan Zito on Finsbury Park Underground station in one of the most publicised cases, he had stopped taking his medication.

"Outreach teams" will now be equipped to check on patients released into the community; more money will equip beds in hospital for that small number of patients who cannot cope on their own. Secure units will take those who are a danger to themselves, or to the public.

The Government should not go too far in reversing com-

munity release, however. The vast majority of released patients are no danger to anyone. Three-quarters of a million patients were released in the first five years of the 1990 Community Care Act, which accelerated the shift to care in the community, while 34 murders had been committed by patients within a year of release. Any murder is a tragedy, but there have been only a tiny number when weighed against the gains in humanity under the scheme. Mr Dobson has to be ready to help those released while still restraining those judged really dangerous.

"Care in the community" has too often meant "dumping in the community", with the most vulnerable people in our society wandering the streets in no position to feed for themselves. There can be no guarantee that Mr Dobson's measures will prevent further tragedies: government will need to match its fine words with hard cash. But for demonstrating his commitment to the mentally ill, for acting in a field where there are few plaudits and fewer votes to be won, Mr Dobson deserves our applause.

Animals have no rights, but we still have duties towards them

MARTYRDOM is attention-seeking with the harshest of outcomes. It is a peculiar act, not just because it demands the painful sacrifice of one's own life, but because it is a suicide born, perversely, of optimism. It believes that the act of self-negation can change the world for the better.

Barry Horne, the animal rights hunger striker now nearing death, has elected to add the martyr's garland to the list of tactics with which he hopes to end animal experimentation in laboratories. By starving himself, he has chosen a death associated with causes of human struggle.

The robust response to this is to say that he is a loony, some of whose supporters have threatened to kill other humans after he has gone. It isn't that easy, I'm afraid. A civilised and morally responsive society should take seriously the concerns of protesters, even if these are raised in ways we find questionable.

"True freedom," wrote Rosa Luxemburg in one of her wiser insights, "is the freedom of those who think differently."

To underline this point, unheeded by the Bolsheviks and their heirs, Jan Palach burnt himself to death after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. A few years later, inspired by Palach's example and its impact on world opinion, a Protestant priest self-immolated in East Germany to draw attention to the country's human rights record.

Were they wrong to do so? I have no outright answer to this question. My moral bunch tells me that they were at fault, because they caused

themselves, their families and those who had to deal with the consequences of their actions great anguish. But they also had a certain justification in using shocking tactics because, in both cases, the state refused to engage in discussion of their grievances and forbade mention of them in the media. Their suicides were intended to force attention onto conditions about which the authorities was implacably silent.

Democracies, on the other hand, are obliged to engage in argument with people: even with those who do not accept their peaceful terms. That is why Margaret Thatcher's refusal to allow the voice of Gerry Adams to be broadcast was so disturbing.

Horne operates in an open society, but one which is deeply confused about the status of animals and what claim they have on us. In his muddled and often destructive way, he is forcing our attention onto an issue which demands a structured public debate. The reason there should be a Royal Commission on the treatment of animals in laboratories (and in farms and sport, for that matter) is not that a man on self-imposed death-row says there should be, but because we badly need to sort out our own contradictory views on the matter.

The more we learn about animal consciousness - not least because of some of the experiments the anti-vivisectionists condemn - and the more we learn of their ability to feel physical pain and psychological distress, the more solicitous we should be about their welfare.

At present, we apply lax standards



ANNE MC ELVOY

In his muddled way, Barry Horne is forcing attention on to an issue which needs public debate

to animals raised for food and increasingly anthropomorphic standards to the others. Some two decades ago, the pop-star Alice Cooper bit the head off chicken and Ozzy Osbourne decapitated a bat (it turned out to have been a dead one, but he did not take the precaution of checking), the response was one of revulsion and concern for Messrs Cooper and Osbourne's states of mind, rather than for the animals. I suspect that today, such antics would arouse a rush of furious sympathy for the creatures.

So the protest movement is on the winning side of the argument when it comes to the public's increasing sensitivity to animal distress. Most of us are not convinced by the anti-speciesist argument that it is better not to find a cure for cancer than to

experiment on a rat. But we doubt that rats should suffer in order to make recreational drugs safer or that meat-producing animals should be turned into hormonal factories on legs for the sake of man's taste and profit.

Problems like these should command the attention of government in the same way that the future of human cloning or embryology does. The great weakness of the fundamentalist animal rights movement is the philosophical and strategic error it makes by associating the protection of animals with the notion of equal rights to man.

I'll say it again in the full knowledge that my desk will be full of furious letters disagreeing: animals do not have rights, in any sense of the word which is helpful in the battle to preserve them from harm inflicted by humans. The classic response to this statement is: "Neither do babies, or people in a permanent vegetative state or the senile elderly." But human beings have the capacity to be bearers of rights and are entitled, if incapable of exercising their own will, to have these rights enforced for them.

The most loyal Lassie or the most clever Babe of a pig, on the other hand, do not consciously exercise their virtues, however winning to human beings they appear. They cannot morally choose to behave well or badly.

The expansion and enforcement of rights alone does not make a whole-society. For too long, the intellectual left believed that it did and thus shares responsibility for conditions in which far more people know their

rights than know their duties. The result is a neglect - and not only where animals are concerned - of other values which hold society together: reason, compassion, the duty of care and a sense of concern and reverence towards the world around us.

Our duties towards animals are based, not on any shared rights status but for the reason the saintly brother of Father Zossima gives in *The Brothers Karamazov*: "Everyone is responsible for everyone and everything."

My grandfather was an otherwise straightforward Victorian autocrat who took to animal welfare with a zeal that was considered rather odd in a rural and mining area where animals were used for work. He taught me this poem, which I would be grateful if any reader versed in 19th century protest verse could source:

*It would ring the bells of heaven with the loudest peal for years
If the person lost his senses and the people came to theirs
And he and they together got down in angry prayers*

Prayers, angry or otherwise, are not what Horne and his sympathisers consider to be a sufficient response to their demands. But behind the patois, the old lines make a point which should be their strongest argument. We owe it to animals to respect their well-being and to re-evaluate their conditions as our knowledge about them expands because it is part of our moral status as humans to bear responsibility for them.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am ready to answer before my people and the whole world for what happened."
Aslan Maskhadov,
Chechen President

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"People say law but they mean money."
Ralph Emerson,
American essayist

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THE UNIVERSAL Declaration of Human Rights is rightly praised for its role in focusing the world's attention on crimes against human dignity. It has been used to oppose apartheid in South Africa, Communist repression in Eastern Europe and many other human rights violations. Why, then, has the failed to make Sudan the focus of world condemnation? even though its dictatorship is arguably the worst human rights violator in the world? In

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Comment on the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

AMERICAN WOMEN are still victims of violence and discrimination. Black women suffer from racism in addition to gender discrimination. In 39 states homosexuals can be dismissed from work because of their sexual proclivities. Federal and state laws guarantee many rights. They ban discrimination based on race or gender in work, housing, and

education. They guarantee freedom of speech, religion, the establishment of societies, and the right to a fair trial. Despite all these guarantees, serious violations of human rights continue to take place regularly. Why is the American eye jaundiced, only seeing what takes place in other countries? Al Ayam, Bahrain

In 50 years, human rights have entered the mainstream of international discourse. Even

the harshest tyrant uses the language of rights if only to distort its universal meaning. In a world where abuses are a daily problem, there can be no blind spots. Nelson Mandela saw the Declaration as "a ray of hope at one of our darkest hours". Mrs Roosevelt deserves our thanks for her role in drafting a blueprint for a better future. But the job was not finished that December: it is a work still in progress.

Canberra Times, Australia

PANDORA

ALUN MICHAELIS campaign to become leader of the new Welsh Assembly has taken another tumble on the downward slope. On Monday Pandora reported that the Secretary of State for Wales sustained a double blow when only 25 people attended the first of his devolution tour meetings at Newport Civic Centre last week, whilst, in the same building, Newport West Labour Party voted 23-3 to back Michael's rival for the nomination, Rhodri Morgan.

The latest hiccup occurred in Neath, constituency of Peter Hain, junior Welsh Office Minister and Michael's campaign manager. Neath Labour Party's General Management Committee voted 20-16 in favour of Rhodri Morgan. Luckily Michael was not speaking at the same venue this time.

HEADS WERE turned in the Commons on Monday when the MP for Preseli Pembrokeshire, Jackie Lawrence, arrived for the start of a new parliamentary week - her hair dyed from brown to blonde. A somewhat amazed Lawrence told Pandora: "I've only been back two hours and already the telegraph wire is buzzing." Stepping back from her amazement at the parliamentary grapevine, which is naming her the Marilyn Monroe of Pembrokeshire, the MP admitted that she had died her hair to mask greyness. "As everyone knows, you can't go back to your original colouring *à la Anna Widdicombe*," Lawrence confided.

PANDORA SALUTES the burgeoning British actors Alan Cumming (pictured) and Jane Horrocks, who have come far since their success in the Donmar Warehouse production of *Cabaret* five years ago. Cumming, who is still playing the role of Emcee in the Broadway production, has carved out a growing film career to include *Titus Andronicus* with Anthony Hopkins, due to start filming next year. Meanwhile, Jane Horrocks is building on the success of another of her musical roles in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, which British film-maker Mark Herman has transferred to celluloid. Herman explained to EW Online why he kept Horrocks in the lead role: "To hear a Judy Garland impression coming out of an apartment in Chicago isn't as quirky as hearing Garland come out of an apartment in Scarborough. It seems immoral to do a version of *Little Voice* without Jane."

WHEN THE Washington National Airport was renamed the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport by a narrow margin in Congress this February, Democrats were dismayed. But this was just the beginning, as Grover Norquist, chairman of the Ronald Reagan Legacy Project, explains: "We have two goals: to get something named after Ronald Reagan in all 50 states, and have as many [things] named after Reagan as there are for John F Kennedy, a suitable honour given Reagan's accomplishment as President." Reaganisation doesn't stop at home,

Norquist tells the *Washington Times*: "We're dealing with [governments] around the world, looking to name things for Reagan internationally, such as we've done for Churchill here in America." Is there a place in Britain for the Ronald and Margaret Tunnel of Love?

TOUGH TORY MP David Davis, not known for his sentimental displays of emotion, was seen on American television this weekend hugging his friend Victor Daley. Thirty years ago, during the Vietnam war, Daley succeeded in a dangerous helicopter rescue of fellow soldiers. Daley was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions but, in the confusion of the war, the Pentagon lost the papers. He received his award last week at a ceremony in Iowa that David Davis flew out to attend. As Chairman of the House of Commons' Public Accounts Committee, Davis is normally the hammer of bureaucratic incompetence. However, the MP was tolerant of the Pentagon's error: "If they hadn't screwed up, his sons and friends would not have had this chance to celebrate Vic's outstanding courage."

THAT FAMOUS football disciplinarian, referee David Elleray, will be putting a few more noses out of joint as he joins a local campaign against noise pollution in Harrow. The Premier League referee and former Harrow School housemaster will be quietly blowing his whistle on loud music and showing the red card to noisy neighbours who, he tells the Harrow Leader, "shatter the peace and cause annoyance". No doubt Elleray's well-documented run-ins with Gordon Strachan and David Beckham will have provided invaluable training ground for this new local hero in the making.

Are human rights an optional extra?



JULIE FLINT
Fifty years after the Holocaust, the UN is complicit in a genocidal war in Sudan

— thereby ensuring that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights fails to be a declaration of universal human rights.

Fifty years after the Holocaust, the UN's disregard for human rights in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan — an area that should be of special interest to Britain — has made it complicit in another policy of annihilation: a genocidal war against a people whose society is a

model of political and religious tolerance, whose very existence threatens the National Islamic Front's (NIF) project of a confessional Islamic extremism.

The Nuba, an amalgam of black African tribes in Arab-dominated northern Sudan, are looking into the abyss. The photographs of George Rodger and Leni Riefenstahl have become part of the immortal iconography of Africa. But the Nuba themselves are fighting for survival.

Long a despised minority in Sudan, many Nuba took up arms in 1985 alongside the southern-dominated Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Reprisals followed. The mountains were blockaded and a war to suppress the SPLA in

work in mechanised farms that enrich the NIF and degrade the soil. Children are separated from their parents and sent away for military training and Islamic indoctrination.

Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS), the UN aid operation mandated to work in all war-affected regions of Sudan, pumps resources into the government-controlled side of the mountains, where aid is deployed as a weapon to lure the Nuba away from their resistance, but acquiesces in the government's refusal to allow relief into rebel-controlled areas.

This year the NIF's war of starvation brought famine to the Nuba Mountains. In May, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan made a solemn commitment to get relief into the mountains. Seven months later, the Nuba are still waiting. OLS has spent a million dollars a day in southern Sudan, but has not put a single bag of grain into rebel-controlled areas. Hundreds of Nuba have died from hunger. Thousands have fled into government hands.

Despite this, on their own and away from international attention, the Nuba have established a civilian administration, a judicial system,

an embryonic police force, a nursing school and teacher-training college. They have trained human rights monitors, organised a religious tolerance conference and taken a popular vote on whether to fight on or surrender. After six days' debate, they voted overwhelmingly to fight.

But the UN is today an integral part of Khartoum's arsenal and Nuba leader Youssouf Kuwa has warned that the Nuba will be committing suicide if they continue to let aid enter government-controlled areas unopposed. Fifty years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declared that "Man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression" the UN has become an accomplice to tyranny in Sudan.

Clare Short is correct in asserting that politics, not aid, is the solution to Africa's problems. But in Sudan the injustice of aid is part of the problem. How can the international community broker a peace if it carries no credibility in the Nuba Mountains? Aid is politics, and the politics of aid are killing the Nuba.

My advice to Mr Hague on how to regain popularity



KEN LIVINGSTONE
Given his lack of obvious unpleasant traits, it's hard to work out why his poll ratings are so low

the polls and Clarke would be having much fun on the vexed question of Britain's over-inflated interest rates. But the difference would merely be a matter of degree, and Labour would still be on course for a second election victory.

Hague has a particular problem that most other right-wing party leaders today are spared. For he cannot avoid the issue of Europe and the euro, bearing down on his party with the destructive force of a tactical nuclear weapon. Hague's problem is that the Tory Party has always been a coalition between big business and the petty bourgeoisie, and on the issue of Europe, their interests clash. Big business is not prepared to support a political party that might hold back from joining the euro. Every corporate boss knows that, while Britain staying out of the euro for two or three years presents no long-term problem, the Tory policy of remaining outside for at least a decade would put most of Britain's big multinationals at a severe disadvantage. Indeed, such a long-term exclusion from the euro could

lead many corporations to consider relocating their main centres of operation to the euro zone.

The other component of the great Tory coalition are the thousands of small businesses throughout Britain that, since time immemorial, have staffed and run their local Conservative associations. While big business can compete on the European playing field, and trade unions should be protected by Europe's social agenda, the middle class is the group most likely to be squeezed by the euro project.

This is Hague's dilemma. The rank and file of his party, believing they are acting to defend their standard of living, have carried out a veritable ethnic cleansing of Tory MPs, picking on the slightest

Europian tendencies. Much of the rhetoric behind this purge has been xenophobic and, particularly, anti-German, but the driving fear has been the harsher economic climate threatened by closer European integration. As long as this is the predominant ethos in the modern Tory party, big business will continue to work for the return of Blair. If it began to look as though Hague might actually be moving towards an election victory based on support from Conrad Black's *Daily Telegraph* and the Murdoch empire (the objection of which to Europe is primarily because it stands to benefit more from American economic dominance), I suspect Britain's great corporations would act decisively to thwart that victory.

So Hague's dilemma is, in reality, insoluble. He can't win without the support of big business and he can only regain that support by reversing the party's policy. Any attempt to do this would plunge his party into a civil war that would make Labour's infighting of the early Eighties look like a Methodist tea party.

If this were not bad enough, Hague has the other problem that his party is still tied to all the free-market dogma of the Thatcher-Reagan years as the rest of the world is moving on to talk about managing trade and capital flows in order to tame the market. The most dramatic example of this is George Soros, who, on Monday's *Newsnight*, attacked the rules by which international investors operated. These, he argued, did not have enough regard for social consequences. He condemned the dogma of the "moral economy" of the market. Markets, he said, were not moral but amoral.

Yesterday, asked whether Western governments and multinational organisations had begun to understand that corruption is a force not just for economic instability but also for political instability, he replied emphatically: "Not sufficiently." He added: "There is always somebody who pays, and international business is generally the main source of corruption." He also attacked the "internecine battle between the oligarchs" in Russia, where Yeltsin's robotic assumption of all the neoliberal nostrums has led to the deepest and most prolonged recession in any country in history. Mr Soros will be subscribing to *Socialist Economic Bulletin* at this rate.

Given that Hague cannot reopen the issue of Europe, his only chance to regain some popular appeal would be to put the Tories at the forefront of the fight to protect Britain from the ravages of the unregulated international economy. Such a stance would not be out of line with the broad message of the election campaign of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, which managed to capture 3 per cent of the Tory vote.

It is being taken up by right-wing populists in America and Europe.

But it would put Hague in the same camp as Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of France's National Front — not a happy prospect. Perhaps the best advice I could give Hague is to resign, spend more time with Ffion and let some other poor sod try and square these circles. Only someone as mad as John Redwood is fit for this unhappy role.

Sorrows carried in a snail's shell



PODIUM

EMPEROR MICHIKO
The Empress of Japan reminisces about her childhood reading to a conference in New Delhi on books for the young

Grandfather and my uncles and aunts, read to me and told me tales up to about my second year in elementary school. I think I would have been between four and seven.

At that age, I had not yet known anything you could call a great sorrow. For that reason no doubt, when I learnt that in the end the little snail had stopped bemoaning his lot, I simply thought, "oh, good!"

That was all. I gave no special

thought to the whole matter.

But afterwards, that story kept coming to mind: it would seem that the sorrows that filled the shell quite full, and the sudden awareness of this, and the anxiety that made the snail feel he could no longer go on living, were all indelibly engraved on my memory. As I grew a little older, I could no longer simply conclude "oh, good!", and I even had at times some vague, uneasy intimations that just to go on living was no easy thing. In spite of that, I certainly did not dislike this story.

Looking back on it now, what did my childhood reading do for me? Above all, it gave me pleasure, and then laid the foundation for my later reading during adolescence. At times it gave me roots; at times it gave me wings. These roots and wings were a great help to me as I threw bridges out and in, expanding bit by bit and nurturing my own personal world.

Reading gave me opportunities to ponder over joy and sorrow. It was through reading books, with many kinds of grief delineated in them, that I could come to know how deeply people other than myself can feel, and that I could perceive

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Churchill looks on as Hague reflects on the Tories' problems

GABE: PIQ IN 71
Director: George M
Starring: Maggie G
REG DAILY

The follow-up to a "sheep-pig" into it becomes the unlikely Knockabout comic favour of a big verger on the staff on Miller's show. Kids will make it big West End: ABC 1 Court Room, Barb House, Elephant Leicester Square, Cinerama, Tivoli, Marlowe Arts, Old Virgin Pub Inn

DANCING AT 57
Director: Peter C
Starring: Maye Kathy Burke
Less a dance, and set a gay pinup Catholic family backdrop is Mandy the brood's wife Michael Gambon it's not enough, as all too readily apparent West End: Curve

IT'S A WOMAN
Director: Frank S
Starring: Jennifer Savoyne Capra's feminist complex theme with James Cagney how drowsy it's never been like existence a thick vein the making of the little man West End: Phoenix Club

ON CONNIE
Director: Alan Parker
Starring: Penelope Love him or not, Peter Riegert

ANTZ
See The Independent West End: ABC & Castle Court, Cinerama, Tivoli, Marlowe Arts, Cinerama, The Virgin Pub Inn

ABE: THE MINOTAUR
York vampires bloodsucker Odeon, Kent Cinema, The Warner West End

DEAD MAN
The student American of other, led revolutionaries, the Screen quot;of

ELIZABETH
Shekhar Kapoor's story of a female male word for fun and cruelty, West Kensington Cottage, Virgin

THE END HERELEA
and here since its release is still in the House, still

FEAR AND
Terry Gilliam's cartoonish journal into a stand-up Thompson West End Square

THE FOOL
The F... West End

IF ONLY
Mix French funeral Anglo-Saxons who is it and deferred tax problems Spanish

LEFT L
Jerome K. Jerome's candidate in an ABC 1 film, and experience in corporate law Laura F. G. consultant Elinor G. Cinerama, Parker Street, London

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That sinking feeling - again



ANNA SOMERS COCKS

Why do the Italians have such difficulty deciding how to protect the world's most beautiful city?

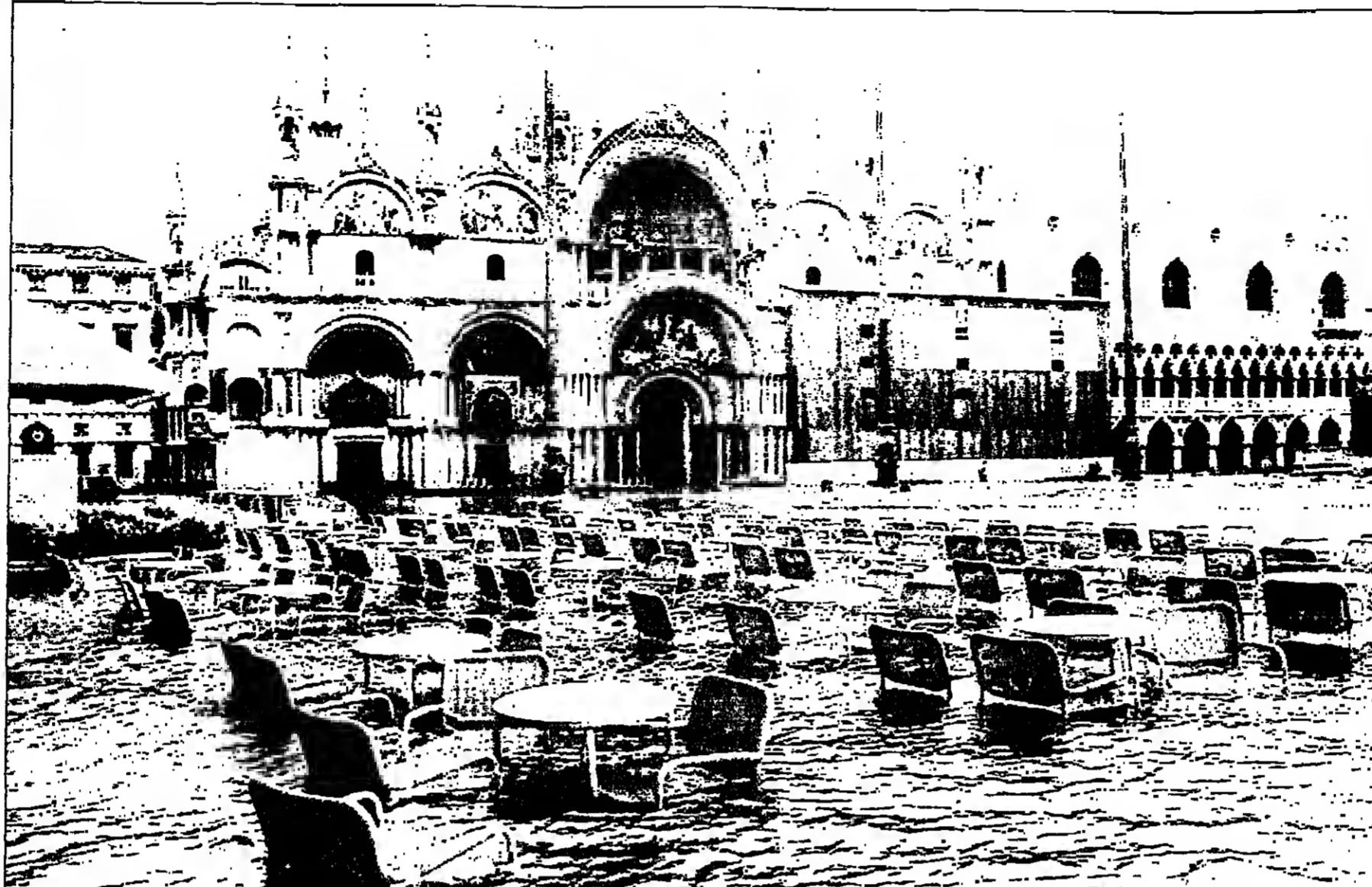
ON THURSDAY if the decision is not delayed yet again, Edo Ronchi, the Italian Minister for the Environment, is expected to reject the plan to build mobile barriers at the three openings from the lagoon of Venice into the Adriatic.

This is despite the fact that he has before him a report (completed this summer) by five eminent experts from institutions including MIT and the Institute for Environmental Studies in Amsterdam, which says that the barriers are ecologically safe and effective defences; this is despite the fact that the report was commissioned by the Italian government itself; this is despite the fact that St Mark's Square was under more than a metre of water again last week, and will be dozens of times more this year. We can be sure of that. At the beginning of the century, St Mark's Square was flooded about seven times a year; by 1988 it was 40 times in the year, and in 1996 it was 99 times.

Even the politician who himself has to wade through the water, the mayor of Venice, makes shrill statements when asked whether he is in favour of the barriers; he is not entirely against them, or for them, but says that they need to be studied further and that their financing needs to be clarified.

Why do the Italians have such difficulty in deciding how to protect the world's most beautiful city? Much of it comes down to the eat's cradle of coalitions that is Italian politics at state, regional and city levels. Thus Massimo D'Alema, the Prime Minister, upsets the Greens at his peril because he depends on their support to stay in power; and the Minister of the Environment is a Venetian, Mayor Cacciari of Venice is also dependent on Green support for his position.

And yet the evidence for a declining state of affairs is incontrovertible. The seaweed lines on the marble steps to the Venetian palaces show how much higher the water now laps than when they were built. This is partly because the whole of north-east Italy is subsiding, and partly because, after the Second World War, water was抽水 from the subsoil by the factories on the nearby mainland (this has now ceased).



St Mark's Square lies under a metre of water last month after heavy rains left Venice flooded once again

In addition, as we all know, the seas are rising. Scientists worldwide generally agree that by the middle of the next century, the waters will be about 20cm higher everywhere, including the Mediterranean. Weather patterns are also changing, leading to more low-pressure systems and storms. So quite apart from the frequent small floods, the risk of a storm surge tide (a low-pressure system coinciding with a high tide and strong wind) can be the kind that put the whole of Venice under nearly two metres of water in 1966, is greater than ever.

Experts say that it is not a question whether it will happen, merely when. It could be tomorrow, this being the flooding season in Venice when everyone keeps their gumboots at the ready.

Across the world - in south-east England, the Netherlands and parts of the east coast of the US, for instance - populations and politicians have accepted the global situation and are planning for the future. They are preparing to add billions to the money they have already invested in their sea defences. By contrast, Italy, which has this especially fragile and lovely creation to protect, has managed to turn the issue into a punchball for party politics and

nothing has been done - nor does it look as though it will be.

Back in 1981, a scheme for mobile barriers at the three openings between the lagoon and the Adriatic was first developed and went on being improved, until in 1992 the prototype was tested successfully. It works on the principle of a series of hinged flaps that normally lie invisibly on the sea bed but are raised when needed. When down, ships and tides can move through the mouths of the lagoon as usual.

But over the last 10 years, opposition in Italy to these barriers has grown. It is of three sorts. Big business fears that if the barriers have to be closed frequently, ships and, in particular, the petrol tankers entering the lagoon to get to the refineries on the other side, will be held up, and money will be lost. The Green objection is that the lagoon has been as sinfully mistreated as the rainforests of the Amazon, by deepening the shipping channel (for the said tankers), by building fish farms, and by polluting it with phosphates washed down from the agriculture in the hinterland. If we could only return to the good old ways of the Venetians under the doges, they say, then the flooding

problem would be much reduced (but they dare not predict by how much it would be reduced), nor does anyone in this camp concede that the modern world's ecology bears no relationship to what it was 200 years ago - which is paradoxical, considering that these people are ecologists.

The short-term pragmatists' objection is that, because the barriers are expensive - an estimated £1.5bn spread over the eight years they would take to build - there might be less money for the other things that need doing in Venice, such as dredging the canals. This seems to be behind the apparently perverse reluctance on the part of Venice's mayor to see his city protected.

The truth is that there is a fundamental confusion in people's minds which leads them to think that it is a choice between ecological virtue or some kind of barrier; when it is not a question of either/or, but both. The lagoon must be looked after as tenderly as when the doges used to wed the waters with a ring, and yet we must also accept that conditions have changed fundamentally in the last 200 years, and new measures must be built to protect Venice. The historical Venetians themselves did not shrink from innovations, such as the great sea walls that still defend the lagoon.

It must also be accepted that no barriers will be the final solution.

Just as the Thames Barrier comes to the planned end of its economic life after 50 years, in 2030, and will be succeeded by something else, so the price of keeping Venice for our grandchildren will be endless vigilance and expense.

Is Venice worth the expense? An evaluation of the risk and cost benefit involved needs to be made for the city, if only because the people who say that the barriers are too expensive have already, however unconsciously, decided that Venice is not worth the investment.

With their vast DeltaPlan for defending themselves from the sea, the Dutch have already brought such cost-risk evaluations down to a fine art and could give lessons in how to proceed.

All that is needed is the will to do these things. In the early Nineties, a European politician called Carlo Ripa di Meana, an Italian, suggested that the Venice should be declared independent of Italy - a sort of San Marino - so that the chaotic politics and bureaucracy would no longer get in the way of looking

after it properly. Italian public opinion was deeply offended and the idea was rightly derided.

Venice is, after all, Italy's glory - but also its responsibility. It is the duty of its government to end 15 years of indecision as soon as possible. Then, when it has decided to act, the rest of Europe and the world can help with the costs, if help is needed. But until Italy does decide, the rest of us can only stand by anxiously, fearing the big flood with all the dreadful destruction and perhaps loss of life that it will bring with it.

What is almost worse is that we are already watching the gradual erosion of the social, economic and physical fabric of the city by the dozens of small *acque alte*, as every year more and more young, productive people leave the city for ever and the economy becomes more and more dependent on tourism alone.

As the highly successful manufacturer of the Aprilia motor scooter, Ivano Beggio, said at a recent symposium in Venice on how to revive its economy: "What businessman in his right mind will invest seriously in a city where his employees have to wear gumboots to work one day in three?"

RIGHT OF REPLY

DOUG MCAVOY



The NUT's General Secretary responds to our defence of the National Literacy Project

THE NATIONAL Literacy Project is a success story. Its development had all the characteristics that promote school improvement: the enthusiasm of teachers who knew they were in on something big; a decent time-scale for implementation (two years); quality professional development; and partnership between those responsible for the project and those at the chalk face.

With such preconditions for excellence, it is hardly surprising that children in the project leapt ahead by eight to twelve months, though it is cause for celebration.

So why is the Government's successor literacy strategy problematic?

At the core is a fact that the Government still has difficulty in recognising. Critical to its future is an entitlement within which teachers' professional views are central.

Instead, the Government attempted its version of the Great Leap Forward with a six-month time-scale, and with a string of veiled threats about the dire consequences for schools if they did not operate the strategy.

Remarkably, the Government's attempt to pretend that the Literacy Strategy was a requirement on schools was rejected by the Chief Inspector himself, who told the NUT that it was not Ofsted's job "to comment upon the extent to which the school has taken on the literacy and numeracy strategies".

For teachers to back the literacy initiative enthusiastically, they have to feel that their enthusiasm and commitment are recognised. Enthusiasm and commitment cannot be imposed. They have to come from teachers themselves, a lesson which the Government must learn for its latest big project, the Green Paper on the future of the teaching profession.

Memoirs of a time traveller

SCIENCE FICTION has a remarkable and expanding history this century. It was developed from cheap paperbacks and magazines to influence all forms of culture, whether acknowledged or otherwise. How strange that it is not better attended to by those deep in literary studies. The loss is theirs." So writes Brian Aldiss, a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and one of the five major British writers of science fiction (and much else) in this century. The others are JG Ballard, John Wyndham, Olaf Stapledon and John Christopher. If one were to add to those names the major British writers who have moved in and out of science fiction, the list would take in Kingsley Amis, HG Wells, William Golding, Rudyard Kipling, CS Lewis, Doris Lessing, Anthony Burgess and even Salman Rushdie.

And yet (and this is the continuing burden of Aldiss's memoirs), the genre is confined to the outskirts of "proper literature". To acknowledge that one likes it in literary society is to confess to heridom. Aldiss tells how a journalist from



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MY LIFE AS AN ENGLISHMAN
BY BRIAN ALDISS. LITTLE, BROWN. £20

a leading broadsheet was sent to take the piss out of a conference of science fiction writers. He liked what he saw and wrote about it in friendly terms - only to have his copy republished, so to speak, by his editor.

Long ago, CP Snow wrote of the "Two Cultures", science and the arts. He got it wrong. The two cultures are science and anti-science. At my school during the uneasy transition from war to peace, two programmes were introduced: one to introduce the scientists to "culture" ("Civilising the C Block," it was called), one to introduce the classists to science. Brilliantly conceived by a pioneer in the field, it was still bitterly resented, even disliked, by the cream of the classical sixth form - Oxbridge open scholars, one and all. The two cultures had already been established in the run-in to O-levels, if not in the indifferent way that mathematics was taught at primary and prep schools.

Aldiss's autobiography takes him from a lower middle-class childhood in the pre-war West Country through war service in India, Burma and Sumatra (in the Signals) to Oxford. He never attended the university there, but the city remained for him the focus of his life thereafter - continually deserted, as continually returned to. I met him briefly there in 1950. He was working in Parker's bookshop, on the Turl, having moved there from Sanders' bookshop on the High, three stories down from the double room in Oriel in which I celebrated my 21st birthday. Both shops have now disappeared, Parker's into an annex of Blackwell's.

These dates place him fair and square among the British school of writers usually and erroneously identified as the Angry Young Men. Its leading figures were the young Kingsley Amis, John Wain, John Braine and Iris Murdoch.

Essentially, they were analogues of the 18th-century picaresque novelists; what they shared was a settled and secure childhood, suddenly interrupted by the war. At the stroke of a bureaucrat's pen, it dispatched them hither and thither all over the world, subjecting them to control by often, third-rate self-important shits, in conditions of primitive if not barbaric disorder.

Survival with one's sense of selfhood unbroken by all the assaults on it was all-important; and rebellion against attempts by military and other authorities to humiliate and break them is a common theme of this group's early novels.

Aldiss differed only in that he served in south-east Asia. His use of this wartime experience in the Tom Stubbs novels (beginning with *A Hand-*

reared Boy) was uproariously memorable. Aldiss's memoirs are maddeningly bitty, often reading like jottings in a writer's notebook. But out of these jottings there emerges, pointilliste-style, a literary and confessional autobiography of the first order. This is not merely because the life he has led and the books he has written put him fairly and squarely on the border between "respectable" literature and science fiction, but also for the unnervingly accurate picture he gives of his (and my) generation. His is a book to be dipped into, read slowly and savoured for its continuous evocation of the past 75 years of the century in an England which his generation loved and fought for.

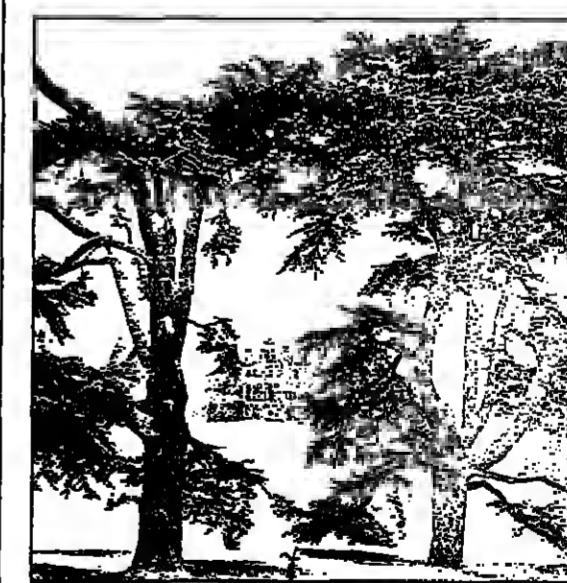
In a recent article the young Tory historian, Andrew Roberts, expressed his envy of those who lived through and fought in the Second World War. This is a book which should be read by all the instant geniuses of the media today. There is, after all, something to be said for being an old fart and telling it like it was.

DONALD CAMERON WATT



Brian Aldiss: proof that there is something to be said for being an old fart

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César

THE FRENCH sculptor César was one of the original agents provocateurs of modern art. A member of the New Realism movement who enjoyed squashing automobiles and other metal objects to create his work, César often attracted controversy. Eventually, the darling of the avant-garde became so famous in his homeland that, in 1975, the French film industry asked him to create the statuette presented to actors as the country's equivalent of the Oscar. There could only be one name for the award: the César.

Born in 1921 along with a twin sister, César Baldaccini was the son of Italian immigrants and grew up in Marseilles. "I'm a peasant, a self-taught man," he was fond of saying. "I didn't go to school. I played truant. Chance meetings in cafés mattered more to me than books. The street taught me the lessons of life."

Although he left school at 12 to work with his father, a barrel-maker, César would spend hours drawing. He was also influenced by his mother, who worked as a cleaning lady but loved Michelangelo, and he took evening classes at l'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Marseilles from 1935 to 1942.

After a year of forced labour under the Germans in the Var area with les Chantiers de la Jeunesse, he won a scholarship and studied at l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris. Already a rebellious talent, César would infuriate his lecturers by ignoring their teachings and creating tiny figures out of metal or plaster.

Coming back to Marseilles in 1944, he struggled doing odd jobs and eventually returned north. He may have been in the right place at the right time but, for a struggling conceptual artist, life was hard. "At Les Deux Magots, I hung out with Jean Cocteau and Orson Welles. They went there because they were famous. I was sitting outside on the terrace because I didn't have anywhere else to go," he recalled later.

In the early Fifties, hammer and blowtorch in hand, César set about moulding and reshaping scrap metal found on rubbish tips and at the Villetaneuse factory. "It doesn't cost me anything" was his justification. He created fantastic, eerie-looking animals (*Poisson, Chat, Chauve-Souris, Rascasse, Moustique, Scorpion*), a veritable three-dimensional bestiary and human figures with tragic or comic expressions (*L'Homme Qui Marche*, produced in 1954, the year of his first show, at the Galerie Lucien Durand in Paris, *L'Homme de Draguignan, La Parisienne, La Grande Duchesse, Nus de Saint-Denis*).

He showed expressionist leanings. His work also betrayed the influence of Picasso, Duchamp, Brancusi, Giacometti and Germaine Richier. Indeed, César's new direction paralleled the *Arte Povera* movement in Italy and that of

France's own *matérices*, who used "lost and found" material to create their work.

A move to bigger metal panels, like the ones used by car manufacturers, made César's name. Soon he was bashing, beating and burning heavy and light metal alike. Solex mopeds, bedframes, humpers, coffee-makers, tins, cans, crates and even fake Cartier watches seized by French customs; everything was fair game for César's squash-and-melt approach. It was only a matter of time before he graduated to compressing a whole car with a power hammer.

The resulting blocks of twisted steel invited grandiose intellectual interpretations. Ironic comment on the consumer society? Symbol of a decaying Western civilisation? In 1960, the metal cubes drove political and cultural commentators of both left and right to write reams of prose about the sculptor. His detractors waded in and called César a charlatan. Museums and collectors bought his sculptures all the same.

Solex mopeds, bedframes, cans, even fake Cartier watches seized by Customs; all were fair game for César's squash-and-melt approach



César holding aloft a César. He designed the French film industry award in 1975

rain in Marseilles. Taking the commercial potential of the idea to its logical conclusion, the sculptor eventually made endless reproductions of his famous thumb, for every budget and in every size (including a thumb-size desktop model).

The discovery of polyurethane excited the artist even more: the foam-like compound which expanded or contracted according to the space available seemed tailor-made for him. In 1968, he came to London and demonstrated his new processes at the Tate Gallery. He was feted by the intelligentsia in Tokyo, Paris, New York and Helsinki.

In the late Sixties he created *Sein ("Breast")* by moulding the décolletage of a Crazy Horse dancer and then blowing up the dimensions to a monumental and breathtaking scale. Confronted with a symbol of their Freudian fixation, the French male-dominated media had a field day. César appeared on television and became a household name.

He didn't have much truck with official unveilings and functions and was happier when portrayed as a

bon vivant pottering around his workshop in his clogs and overalls. Always self-deprecating, he would go as far as declaring he was "useless, hopeless, worthless. I have no culture, no education whatsoever. I'm not an intellectual, I like to touch. It's my hands that make my head work. My sensitivity drove me to create. I have a purely physical and organic relationship with art. Everything to me is tactile and instinctive."

He would sometimes bemoan the lack of "an art dealer to push the work in the United States. I have a difficult life," he claimed. "In fact, I've had several lives, several houses, several stages in my work. I don't own any of it. I just ask people to interpret it differently."

In the Seventies, César lectured at l'Ecole Nationale des Beaux Arts. He began a series of *Masques* by moulding his own bearded face in plastic and plaster. Many a French art student followed his lead. In 1975, he was approached by Georges Cravent to fashion the gem award statuette named after him, which was first presented the following

year. In 1976, he was also made Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

Even wider recognition came when one of his "compressions" was pictured on a French stamp in 1984. The same year he paid an *Hommage à Eiffel*, using material recycled from the Eiffel Tower, and when his *L'Homme du Futur* was installed in the small Burgundy town of Clamecy, it caused as much uproar as Antony Gormley's *Angel of the North* has in Gateshead.

In 1995, César built a 500-tonne

wall of piled-up cars for the Venice film festival, while, last year, the Jeu de Paume in Paris mounted a huge retrospective which ran for four months. Marseilles has so far balked at the cost of a César museum, even though he had presented his hometown with 136 of his works.

PIERRE PERRONE

César Baldaccini (César), sculptor; born Marseilles, France 1 January 1921; married 1960 Rosine Suzanne Groult (one daughter); died Paris 6 December 1998.

The Rev Dr John Brown



Brown, with his sons Gordon, centre, and Andrew, and a copy of his sermons *A Time to Serve*, published for his 80th birthday in 1994

JOHN BROWN was not simply the father of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was also a significant figure in the Church of Scotland and in the local communities in which he served throughout his life. Greatly loved, he was an able preacher and a superb pastor, distinguished by his selfless concern for those committed to his care - a concern that was important in shaping the future politics of Gordon Brown.

Born in Fife in 1914, Brown went to Bell Baxter School in Cupar before going on to St Andrew's University. He was an excellent student, especially linguistically - and one of the most popular - gaining an MA in 1935, and graduating Bachelor of Divinity with first class honours in 1939. The university bestowed a doctorate of Divinity on him in 1979.

He was ordained and inducted at St Cuthbert's, Dunoon, in 1939, having first served as an assistant at St Katherine's, Newburgh, and then at St Mary's, Govan. He returned to Govan in 1943 for his second ministry, and remained there for 11 years. From 1954 to 1967 he was the minister at St Brycedale, Kirkcaldy, and served as Chaplain at Kirkcaldy High School. His last charge was St John's, Hamilton.

All his ministries were successful. He was disciplined, fond of people and had considerable charm and a lovely sense of humour. He was also a good preacher, thoroughly prepared. I never met a better pastor.

Brown had an ethical, sensitive side to his nature, and was politically orientated - more people like him should enter politics. He was naturally friendly and dedicated to helping people; he and his wife were an extraordinary couple. I never surprised them by producing a son like Gordon.

He married Elizabeth Souter in 1947. They had a very happy marriage and a strong family life - he had a gift for making you feel at home. His three sons have all been successful: as well as Gordon, John, the eldest, is head of public relations for Glasgow City Council and the youngest, Andrew, is Channel 4 television producer. They are a distinguished family but, more importantly, have remained "nice".

John Brown was a stalwart of the community, continuing to preach at local churches during his long retirement. He had a saintly quality, yet remained very human at the same time. He was involved in charity work and regularly visited patients at Insh Hospital nearby. In 1994, on his 80th birthday, Brown's three sons published a collection of his sermons *A Time To Serve*.

MURDO EWEN MACDONALD

John Ebenezer Brown, minister of the church; born Largo, Fife 26 October 1914; ordained 1939; married 1947 Elizabeth Souter (three sons); died Insh, Aberdeenshire 7 December 1998.

Professor Eric Axelson

ANTONIO DE Figueiredo's obituary of Professor Eric Axelson [7 November] is a necessary tribute to a most able and distinguished scholar, writes Professor H. V. Livermore. It contains one inaccuracy. It was in Rhodesia that

archivists were a rarity, and Axelson's accompanist was not a member of the PIDE (Portuguese state police), as de Figueiredo states, but a sergeant from the Rhodesian crime squad selected for this more agreeable service.

Axelson was his own archaeologist. On returning from Lisbon to Natal in December 1937, he was able to locate at once from accounts the spot where a beacon or *padrão* had been erected to mark the limit of Bartolomeu Dias's voyage which dis-

covered and rounded the Cape in 1488. It had stood at False Island or Kwai Hoek, and had been broken. Part was underground and part had fallen into the sea. Axelson and his brother retrieved the fragments and had them pieced together, and it now

forms part of the collection of the Sociedade de Geografia in Lisbon.

Incidentally, Bartolomeu Dias's statue now adorns South Africa House, and he is the only Portuguese to be so commemorated in London.

Professor Susan Strange

SUSAN STRANGE was one of the world's leading scholars in international relations and the major European figure in its sub-discipline of international political economy (IPE), the study of the activities of states and transnational agents in their efforts to influence markets and political life.

For a generation she wrote prodigiously and lectured to audiences in dozens of countries, in every continent. She left behind a remarkable legacy that few can match. She was highly regarded by colleagues and students in Europe, North America, Japan and elsewhere, many of them occupying prominent positions in national and international professional and public life. Her impact is hard to overestimate.

Strange's most enduring achievement was to institutionalise teaching and research into IPE in Britain. Many British universities that now boast flourishing graduate programmes in IPE have her to thank for establishing the first IPE graduate programme at the London School of Economics in 1984, against some robust opposition, it might be added. Ironically, the ability of the programme to attract high-fee-paying and high-quality foreign students silenced intellectual scepticism. In 1978 she was appointed Montague Burton Professor of International Relations at LSE.

She was also involved in the creation of several other graduate programmes, including one in Warwick University, and a generation of her former students holds teaching positions in all of them. Strange was one of the select few who enjoyed instant name recognition and easily filled large auditoriums. At the beginning of her books are to be seen piled high in bookshops.

Susan Strange was born in 1923 and graduated with a First in Economics from LSE during the Second World War. She began a career in journalism, first at *The Economist* and then for *The Observer*, as the youngest White House correspondent of her time.

On her return to London in 1949, she also began to teach at University College, while she continued as *The Observer's* economics correspondent and editorial writer. In 1963 she became a research fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House and subsequently directed its acclaimed transnational relations project. While at Chatham House she wrote *Sterling and British Policy* (1971), one of a number of significant projects during Andrew Shonfield's directorship of the institute.

Her intellectual contribution has been twofold and will endure, because its concerns have been absorbed into the mainstream of international relations thinking. The methodological issue of the failure of economics and international politics to engage with each other, as a matter of course and systematically, was addressed by Susan Strange in a justly famous paper entitled "International Politics and International Economics: a case of mutual neglect". If the issue now seems dated, it is precisely because a small band of scholars like her drew attention to its half-heartedness in the first place.

The other central aspect of her investigations was the impact of power politics on market outcomes and international organisations, apparently pursuing uncontroversial technical goals. In a celebrated piece, in 1982, she reflected unsparingly on the allegedly benign consequences of international regimes associated with them.

In her work on IPE, she was one of the few mainstream writers who remained robustly critical of what she considered selfishly irresponsible US policies that she felt were irrelevant to the health of the world economy. She maintained that domestic politics and US constitutional arrangements were particularly to blame for this unhappy situation. She also dismissed as self-serving the widely propagated lament of its decline, suggesting, instead, that the US retained a huge advantage.

Strange was an early participant in the debates at Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and LSE that turned into the tidal wave of IPE literature. This output has now become varied, often displaying richness and taps into an important seam of policy-making issues, central to choices being made. Her book *States and Markets* (1988) was swiftly written and had its defects, but students bought it eagerly because the book provided an easily comprehensible unifying theme for the totality of IPE.

In 1986 she had already written *Casino Capitalism*, a prescient comment on the potential significance of increased international financial activity. Typically, she moved, on her official retirement, to a new career at the European University Institute in Florence in 1989. From there, she collaborated with John Stoddard of the London Business School to co-author *Rival States, Rival Firms: competition for world market shares* (1991). It won the George Terry award for its contribution to management studies.

Susan Strange embodied a certain kind of quintessential Englishness that was striking to an outsider like myself: the first PhD student she supervised. She was an iconoclast and radical, a tradition that recalls a powerful theme: English culture and history. She was no revolutionary, but she questioned prevailing nostrums with ill-concealed glee.

And even when she missed the target she did so imaginatively. This was her great asset, to be interesting even when she was wrong, a welcome contrast to the solemnities of carefully footnoted pedantry, that often arouses a sinking feeling of *déjà vu*. She belonged to a pedigree that echoed the Manchester School liberals, believing in the pragmatic possibilities of human improvement, although she had fewer ideological illusions. That she was the daughter of a renowned First World War flying ace somehow does not surprise.

Her life must also be judged remarkable for the many dimensions and qualities it combined. It remains a mystery how she managed to expand unforgiving time to be a mother to six children, a wife, write quite so much, lecture as well as travel widely. She married a fellow journalist at *The Observer*, Clifford Selly, in 1955, when she was already a career woman with two children. It was his sound judgement on the possibilities and limits of the real world in which she trusted.

The result was the outwardly contradictory synthesis in her work of imaginative analysis with caution in prescription. She had no time for any of the fashionable 1980s New Left Jacobinism, *de rigueur* for protest, in the period, against the ills of the world economy. Yet she held strong views against injustice, refusing to visit apartheid South Africa.

She was impatient of feminists carp about the unfairness of life, famously chiding them in her presidential address to the American International Studies Association in 1995; she was only the second non-American to hold the post. But she was also an exemplar of feminist success in the life that she led. Of men, she once said that they either belonged to cultures in which men liked women and enjoyed their company



International Relations at LSE

they belonged to cultures that did not. She implied the need for a more complex standard for judging the first type in which men also seemed to evince greater interest in the first place.

Susan Strange was a good-humoured and fun person, willing to listen and cross swords good-naturedly with colleagues and students over a beer, never resorting to intellectual terrorism by wielding her authority. If she thought she had encountered an interesting idea she would yield with enthusiasm. What she did not suffer was self-pity. Perhaps, she was also a little too demanding of effort from those around her to fulfil their potential. There was not a lot in her own life that would have given her pause over such average human infirmities in this regard.

A fortnight before her death she published *Mad Money*, a sequel to *Casino Capitalism*. True to form, she had never actually quit, retiring a second time, at 70, to a professorship at Warwick University when she left Florence. She clearly did not relish what she regarded as petty-bogging bureaucratic proprieties. But in a final act of help to IPE scholars in Britain she secured, by her presence, a major grant from the Economic and Social Research Council for Warwick University to study globalisation.

GAUTAM SEN

Susan Strange, scholar of international relations: born 9 June 1923; Lecturer in International Relations, University College London 1949-64; Research Fellow, Royal Institute of International Affairs 1965-76; German Marshall Fund Fellow, London School of Economics 1976-78; Montague Burton Professor of International Relations 1978-88; Professor of International Relations, European University Institute in Florence 1989-93; Professor of International Relations, Warwick University 1993-98; married 1942 Denis Merritt (died 1993; one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1955); Clifford Selly (two sons, one daughter, and one son deceased); died Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

Professor Tony Tanner

THE EARLY death at 63 of Tony Tanner has robbed King's College, Cambridge, of one of its favoured sons, the university English faculty of its most perceptive reader and lovers of English and American literature of their best guide.

Tony Tanner was brought up in south London. His father was a civil servant and his mother had trained as a teacher. Tanner's childhood was one limited by the Second World War and the austerity that it brought in its wake. He attended Raynes Park County Grammar School and after National Service, matriculated at Jesus College, Cambridge. He was one of an extraordinary cohort of undergraduates three of whom (Jeremy Prynne, John Rathmell and Tony Spearing) went on to hold senior positions in the English faculty. Their teachers included two great Shakespearean scholars, A.P. Rossiter and John Brockbank, both of whom were to be lasting influences on Tanner.

The degree he undertook at Cambridge was largely the product of a union of I.A. Richards's methods of practical criticism and F.R. Leavis's historical moralism. Both for very different reasons situated English literature as the central discipline for a modern university: a discipline focused on close reading of the canon – the body of English literature from Chaucer to Eliot which recorded Arnold's "best that had been thought and said".

To read English at Cambridge in the late Fifties was to have the last opportunity to read the whole canon of English literature. The texts had been agreed for 30 years, the secondary literature was still modest and while history, sociology and anthropology could make contributions to the "central discipline of the modern university", the questions posed by both theory and popular culture had yet to be articulated.

Tanner has a strong claim to be the best reader ever produced by this particular formation and this is the underlying force of all his work. But, if Tanner was a compulsive reader and writer, he was also one of the finest talkers in the world; his conversation rippled with quotations taken from the whole range of English literature woven in and out of an absolutely contemporary speech devoid of pretension or pomposity. To speak with him for an hour was to be treated, whether the topic be English football, faculty gossip or the government of the day, to a wonderful literary lesson.

As for many others growing up in the austerity of post-war Britain, America had always beckoned as the promised land and his two teenage passions of jazz and boxing suggested that all routes led across the Atlantic. After a brilliant Tripos, he won a Harkness Fellowship which took him to Berkeley, California, in 1958. Here he was to encounter another lasting influence in his teacher Henry Nash Smith. He was also to meet his first wife, Marcia Albright and discover the full force of post-war American literature and culture.

He returned to Cambridge in 1960 and to a Fellowship in King's, where the great Daddie Rylands was looking for a



Professor of English and American Literature at Cambridge from 1983

successor. To the then dominant Leavist orthodoxy, King's was Cambridge's whore of Babylon, a haven of dubious sexuality and an enclave of metropolitan Bloomsbury. For Tanner, it was the last and most important part of his education. The Bloomsbury ideal of civilised behaviour stripped of its class hypocrisy became Tanner's settled faith.

It is difficult now to imagine a time when American literature was not taught in any English university. But to engage with American literature was

and provided a comprehensive overview of contemporary American fiction. Throughout this period Tanner moved back and forth across the Atlantic and constantly flirted with the idea of settling there permanently; not least to rescue his beautiful wife from the cold and inhospitable Cambridge Fens. But when he finally did go to Johns Hopkins University in 1976, he had missed his moment. Not only had the marriage ended but the instant he arrived in Baltimore he was plunged into a deep depression

To engage with American literature was novel, radical and daring. Throughout his career Tanner maintained the role of evangelist for his adopted literature

novel, radical and daring when Tony Tanner began his doctoral study of the Transcendentalists. So impressive was the thesis and the subsequent book *The Reign of Wonder* (1965) that Tanner was appointed to a post in the English faculty just before the book was published. Throughout his career he maintained the role of evangelist for his adopted literature – advising, examining, lecturing wherever he could help American literature on to the syllabus. Almost all those in Britain who have taken courses or degrees in American literature owe him a considerable debt.

His next book, *City of Words* (1971), moved from the 19th to the 20th century

and within six weeks had sent in an application for his old job at Cambridge. The fact that the notoriously ran-corous Cambridge English Faculty immediately re-appointed him says much both for the sweetness and gentleness of his nature and of his pre-eminent position as a critic of American literature. King's too, despite the fact that they had appointed three Fellows to replace him, also welcomed him back.

Nadia Fusini, his new Italian wife with whom he enjoyed a very happy and highly unorthodox marriage, and his young colleagues, who were bringing the good news from Paris, stimulated him to new endeavours of decidedly more

European flavour. The result was an ambitious attempt to combine close readings of Goethe, Rousseau and Flaubert with more theoretical approach in *Adultery and the Novel* (1979). But this period came to an end when the faculty sacked a junior colleague of his at King's.

There was an exodus from the college of his English friends and colleagues. The depression that had first afflicted him in Baltimore returned in even more vicious form and his drinking, which had already seriously damaged his balance and left him unable to walk without a stick, now dominated his entire life. Even his closest friends despaired of his condition. But Nadia Fusini's refusal to accept such defeatism and a period of psychoanalysis bought a quite unexpected end to both his suicidal drinking and depression.

Tanner now embarked on what he called his "posthumous life", a time of great happiness and achievement. Happily installed in King's, appointed in 1988 to a personal professorship, active as a revered elder of the tribe in both college and faculty, he found himself returning to the "Great Tradition" with books on Jane Austen and Henry James' *Henry Jones*, 1985, and *Jane Austen*, 1986. These books were not addressed to the "research community" (although they could be read with profit by them) but to students and readers who wanted to understand better these classic texts.

His greatest triumphs were reserved for last. *Venice Desired* (1992) looked at that fabled city through its literary representations from Byron to Thomas Mann, from Ruskin to Proust. It might have seemed difficult to surpass this superb interweaving of literature and history but Tanner's next task was his *magnum opus* – to provide prefaces to every one of Shakespeare's plays in the new Everyman library. All of Tanner's life and education had prepared him for this task and the results are magnificent – both accessible and learned. It was a comfort to him in his final illness that what he felt to be his finest work would be collected together in a single edition.

In that illness his wit remained undimmed and his dislike of bores undimmed. After four weeks in hospital he died back in his beloved King's with his wife, Nadia, his stepdaughter Barbara and his friend Stephen Heath by his side. With Tanner's death a whole era for King's, which began before the First World War with the opening of the college to non-Europeans, comes to a close. For the English faculty his death leaves precious few with direct links back to the founding fathers.

COLIN MACCABE

Paul Antony Tanner, English scholar, born Richmond, Surrey 18 March 1935; Fellow, King's College, Cambridge 1960-9; University Lecturer, Cambridge University 1966-80; Reader in American Literature 1980-93; Professor of English and American Literature 1989-98; married first *Marcia Albright* (marriage dissolved), second 1979 *Nadia Fusini*; died Cambridge 5 December 1998.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS,
MARRIAGES
& DEATHS

DEATHS

TANNER: Professor Paul Anthony ("Tony") peacefully, in his rooms in King's College, Cambridge, on Saturday 5 December. Dearly loved and greatly esteemed brother, uncle, husband, Fellow and friend. Funeral: King's College Chapel, Cambridge, 11 December. Flowers and/or donations to Co-operative Funeral Services, 24 James Street, Cambridge. CBI 10X. Donations to Hospital at Home, 1 Arundel Road, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, WD6 3JF.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL
ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow, presents the Royal Academy of Engineering MacRobert Award at Buckingham Palace; as Patron and Trustee, attends receptions at St James's Palace for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award; as Admiral, attends the Honourable

BIRTHDAYS

Miss Joan Armatrading, singer; 48; Sir Nicholas Bonner, former MP; 56; Mr Beau Bridges, actor; 57; Miss Susan Bullock, soprano; 40; Sir John Burn, former President, Trinity College, Oxford; 73; Dame Judy Dench, actress; 64; Mr Kirk Douglas, actor; 82; Mr Douglas Fairbanks, actor; 90; Miss Dawn Freedman, circuit judge; 56; Mr Geoffrey Hankins, former chairman, Fitch Lovell; 72; Mr Robert Hawke, former prime minister of Australia; 69; Professor Gabriel Horn, President, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge; 71; Mr Simon Kellner, Editor, *The Independent*; 41; Dr Linnell Kopelowitz, former president, Board of Deputies of British Jews; 72; Mr Ian McIntyre, writer and broadcaster; 67; Mr John Malkovich, actor; 45; Mr Donny Osmond, singer; 41; Miss Isobel Poole, Sheriff of

Lothian and Borders, 57;

Lord Rees QC, former MP and Chief Secretary to the Treasury; 72; Mr David Rider, disc jockey; 58; Dame Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, operatic soprano; 83; Mr Roger Short, ambassador to Bulgaria; 54; Sir Peter Smithers, former MP; 85; Miss Rita Stephen, former trade union leader; 73; Miss Joanna Trollope, writer; 55.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: John Milton, poet, 1608; Baldassare Ferri, castigator, 1610; Edward, first Baron Thurlow, Lord Chancellor; 1731; Prince Peter Alexeyevich Kropotkin, Russian revolutionary and geographer; 1842; Joel Chandler Harris, writer, and creator of "Uncle Remus"; 1848; Clarence Birdseye, inventor of the deep-freezing process; 1886; Hermione Ferdinand Gingold, actress and entertainer; 1896; Richard Austen

Butler, Baron Butler of Saffron Walden, statesman, 1902.

Deaths: Malcolm IV, King of Scotland, 1165; Sir Anthony Van Dyck, painter; 1641; Robert Nanteuil, engraver; 1678; Ezra Cornell, founder and founder of Cornell University; 1874; Dame Edith Sitwell, writer and poet; 1964.

On this day: the first execution took place in Newgate Prison, London, 1783; in attempting to rescue the barbecue Mexico, 27 lifeboatmen from Southport and St Annes, Lancashire, were drowned; 1886; China declared war on Japan, Germany and Italy; 1941; the first episode of *Coronation Street* was televised; 1960; Lech Walesa was elected president of Poland; 1990.

Today is the Feast Day of St Budoc or Beuoc, St Gor-gonia, St Leocadia, St Peter Fourier and The Seven Martyrs of Samosata.

LECTURES

National Gallery: David Jaffe, "Pictures from Christ Church"; Van Dyck, "The Continence of Scipio"; 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Sarah Steart, "Merchants and Collectors in the Nehru Gallery"; 2pm. Tate Gallery: Jonathan Blackwood, "Aesthetic Debates in 1930s England"; 1pm. British Museum: Hilary Williams, "The Nativity and Religious Diagrams: Mantegna to Rubens"; 11.30am. Wallace Collection, London W1: Christy Phillips, "Rococo Art in Gallery Four"; 1pm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Gerald Wakefield, "The Internet: copyright and intellectual property"; 5.30pm. Kufa Gallery, Looeoo W2: Ibrahim Mohamed, "The History of Damascus"; 7.15pm.

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as President, attends a

Prince's Trust Conference at Lewisham College, London SE4. The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, attends the National Olympic Committee Meeting at the Town Hall, Sheffield; opens Sheffield University's School of Nursing and Midwifery, St George's Hospital, Sheffield; opens Joint Replacement Instrumentation (Ceramics) Ltd, Leigh Street, Sheffield; and, as President of Patrons,

Crime Concern, attends a reception to launch the Crime Concern Membership Scheme at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Gloucester, President, St Bartholomew's Hospital, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, attends a concert in the Great Hall to mark the 875th anniversary of the foundation of the Priory and St Bartholomew's Hospital, London EC1. The Duke of Keot, Colonel-in-Chief,

visits the 1st Battalion Devonshire and Dorset Regiment on Salisbury Plain; and, as Patron, the European Union Baroque Orchestra, attends a concert and dinner at the Banqueting House, London SW1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

50

HISTORICAL NOTES
GERALD HOWSON

Lies and swindles in the Spanish Civil War

AFTER ALL that has been written during the past 63 years on the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39, one might suppose that everything of importance that can be said about it has been said and that every lie has been exposed. The figures were later revealed as exaggerated and were toned down a bit, but many passed into history and old controversy finally resolved. Not quite, I'm afraid.

Consider, for instance, the disagreements over why the Republicans were defeated. According to them and their supporters, they lost because they lacked armaments. Britain and France had sponsored Non-Intervention ostensibly to prevent the civil war from escalating into a larger war. In practice, the British had worked the embargo in such a way as to hinder arms from reaching the Republicans while allowing Hitler and Mussolini to send enough to Franco to enable him to win. This explanation was widely accepted until about 30 years ago and was tacitly endorsed even by some in Franco's own entourage.

The official Franco line, however, was that all this was a Red lie, and during the 1960s and 1970s numerous books and articles, complete with figures said to be based on captured Republican documents, appeared in Spain to show that, from the Soviet Union and through arms dealers, the Reds had procured as much material as, or even more material than,

what they needed even for a defensive, let alone an offensive, war.

This forced them to pay huge bribes to ministers of government, military chiefs, politicians and officials at every level in country after country in order to buy at outrageous prices arms that, as often as not, were never delivered or were found to be junk.

For the conduct of the Poles, Czechs, Estonians, Romanians and Turks, to mention only a few of the governments involved, at times almost defies belief: it is the Soviets who, far from giving whole-hearted support to the Spanish Republic as they and their apologists have always claimed, turned out to have been the biggest swindlers and thieves of the lot. Obviously, therefore, since this is a matter not of detail but of establishing fundamental historical justice, much that has been written about the Spanish Civil War will simply have to be rewritten.

The Russians could make a helpful start by opening all their Spanish Civil War archives, before someone tries to destroy them, or as happened several times only a few years ago, offer them for sale on the black market.

Gerald Howson is the author of *Arms for Spain: the untold story of the Spanish Civil War* (John Murray, £25).

Police officers were not entitled to damages

WEDNESDAY
LAW REPORT

9 DECEMBER 1998

Frost v Chief Constable of South Yorkshire and others
House of Lords (Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Griffiths, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Steyn and Lord Hoffmann)
3 December 1998

police were in a position analogous to employees of the Chief Constable, and that the employment relationship gave rise to duties which were not owed to strangers, nor as rescuers.

The House of Lords (Lord Griffiths and Lord Goff dissenting) allowed the appeal of the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire against the decision of the Court of Appeal that the plaintiffs were entitled to damages in negligence for psychiatric injury suffered as a result of the Hillsborough disaster.

The plaintiffs were serving members of the South Yorkshire police force on duty at the Hillsborough football stadium or elsewhere on the day that 95 people were crushed to death on the terraces, and many more were injured, as a result of the pressure of the crowds trying to get into the ground.

Two of the plaintiffs had helped to carry the dead and dying; two had had tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate those who had been laid out on the ground; another had assisted at the hospital mortuary. As a result of their experiences, they had suffered post-traumatic stress disorder, which had affected their ability to work and their private lives.

Andrew Colender QC and Patrick limb (Hammond Sudards, Leeds) for the Chief Constable; Benet Hytner QC and Graham Platts (Russell Jones & Walker, Sheffield) for the plaintiffs.

Lord Hoffmann said that the plaintiffs claimed that the

general principles of foreseeability and causation to particular facts.

There was no logical reason why the normal treatment of rescuers on the issues of foreseeability and causation should lead to the conclusion that, for the purposes of psychiatric injury, they should be given special treatment as primary victims who were not within the range of foreseeable physical injury, and their psychiatric injury was caused by witnessing or participating in the aftermath of accidents which caused death or injury to others.

Liability for psychiatric injury to rescuers who gave assistance at or after some disaster without coming within the range of foreseeable physical injury should not be extended. Once the concept of a rescuer as someone who put himself in physical danger was extended to include those who gave assistance, the line between them and bystanders became difficult to draw with any precision.

Furthermore, such an extension of liability would be unacceptable to the ordinary person because he would think it unfair between one class of claimants and another, at best, not treating like cases alike, and at worst, favouring the less deserving against the more deserving. He would think it wrong that policemen, even as part of a general class of persons who had rendered assistance, should have the right to compensation for psychiatric injury out of public funds while the bereaved relatives were sent away with nothing.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

joanna, n.

Although more expensive than the recent OUP volume, it contains 65,000 entries rather than 10,000. As for joanna, which dates from the mid-18th century,

joannin' – an exchange of insults, not rhyming slang for moanin': the etymology is uncertain but there is a dialect phrase, Joan Blunt.

Naturally, one soon strays further (I need a kneller). It is a marvel: the Sussex Stoopers chain is doing it at half-price (£12.50), a ship – the duty-free on a day-trip to Brighton.

You ask the questions

(Such as: Mick Hucknall, is your music just easy-listening for yuppies? And what's your favourite chat-up line?)



Mick Hucknall was born in Denton, Manchester in 1960. He recorded his first hit, "Holding Back the Years", with his punk-inspired group, Frantic Elevators. They split up in 1983 and he went on to form Simply Red, whose best-selling singles have included "Money's Too Tight to Mention", "Fairground" and "If You Don't Know Me By Now". He has sold 40 million albums worldwide and his album Blue is double platinum.

Has Tony's government lived up to all your expectations? Guy Sculmers, Lewisham, London. Not all of them... probably no one could in such a short time. But the truth is just William and Paddy are not the superior options. Tony Blair is one of the century's great leaders. And Baldwin is a prat.

How do you respond to critics who say your music is easy-listening for yuppies? Darren Long, Epping - PS. I'm a great fun and I'm not a yuppie! I don't.

What do women find attractive about you? And what's your favourite chat-up line? Linda Taylor, Dublin. Hail it mystifies me but everyone is attractive to at least someone. My chat-up line? I don't have a list of questions. It just depends on the moment.

Why have you never got married and would you like to have children? Gillian Mann, Epsom. I'm only now becoming mature enough to desire it, and yes, I am now ready to make some babies.

If you could date an All Saint, which one would it be? Pete Lemon, Bayswater, London. They have a very cute assistant... very cute.

How did you become friends with Robert De Niro? Emily Downs, East Dulwich. We met in Milano several years ago and then again in New York. Along with Jack Nicholson and Sean Penn and Mr Brando, he is "the bollocks of the dog".

Was it a culture shock living in Hulme, Manchester and then jetting around the world? How do you deal with the contrasts of where you grew up and where you live now? Lesley Meade, Stockport. Totally. It took me years to learn to deal with the realities of fame and

it's not good. All the kitchen stuff in the world isn't going to turn me into her. It's simply a case of can't cook, won't cook. There's no malice involved on their part, but they just can't imagine a young woman who isn't a whiz in the kitchen and the more they pile me up with non-stick bakeware, the less I feel like cooking anything at all.

Esther still remembers her disappointment when, aged about 10, she asked her grandmother for a copy of *The Hobbit*. "My grandma was in one of those book clubs that produces identically-bound copies of various classics. She mistook which book I was pointing to and I unwrapped a copy of *The Complete Poems of Byron, Shelley and Keats*, lovingly inscribed with my name and a message so it couldn't go back. No dragons, no dwarves, no hobbits. I still have the damn book on my shelf, and I've never read it."

Being landed with unventilated tea towels, omelette pans and hooks of classical poetry doesn't simply mean the aggravation of having to take them back (or having to dump them on the doorstep of the local charity shop). Research into the psychology of giving suggests that inappropriate gifts can sometimes betray what is a hopelessly dysfunctional relationship.

"It's awful when you get a present says what you think of a person - get it right

love with. Under the tree, a package duly appeared of the right size, shape and squishiness. On Christmas morning, as she tore away the paper, she could barely keep her countenance: inside were a dozen tea towels. This story gets worse. The giver was her husband.

Great! Another pair of socks...

Giving Christmas presents can be stressful. But receiving them is even worse. By Hester Lacey

DON'T CHRISTMAS presents look beautiful as they glitter under the tree, all wrapped in shiny paper and decorated with ribbons and tinsel? And sadly, that elegant packaging may be the most alluring thing about the gift itself. How often those enticing boxes turn out to contain a piece of useless and completely inappropriate old rubbish: for this is the season when novelty kitchen accoutrements, embossed-leather maniacs sets, fluffy-animal slippers and boxes of sculpted nuggets of marzipan start to suddenly appear, cunningly disguised in smart wrappings and seasonal bows.

Last week, we heard how Dr David Lewis, a psychologist, had surveyed Brent Cross Shopping Centre and found that trudging round the shops can raise stress levels equal to those experienced by fighter pilots. Now William Doherty, professor of family social science at the University of Minnesota, is going as far as to say that it's the actual giving of gifts which is the most nerve-wracking part of the entire season. The British spend an average of £22 per gift, more than the French or the Americans. And yet despite all the effort, agonising and spending, it's still so easy to get it wrong.

Take, for example, Maria, who hinted for weeks about a beautiful, soft, grey cashmere sweater that she had fallen in



love with. Under the tree, a package duly appeared of the right size, shape and squishiness. On Christmas morning, as she tore away the paper, she could barely keep her countenance: inside were a dozen tea towels. This story gets worse. The giver was her husband.

present you don't like," says Dr Carol Burgoyne, a lecturer in psychology at Exeter University. "This isn't just a response to a commodity you don't like, because a gift is more than that - you are giving a part of yourself to the other person."

It is worse, she says, if the person handing out the festive gift is close to you. "If it is someone who should know you and your tastes quite intimately, that can leave a very negative feeling. It suggests that they haven't taken care over their choice, or that they are misguided about what kind of person you are."

And, she further warns, there is a complex gift-ranking system to complicate matters further. Partners or parents and children expect, not to put too fine a point on it, a better present than those given to more distant recipients, which probably means one that cost more. "To some, the cost of the gift can be a signal of how much the giver cares," warns Dr Burgoyne.

Sadly, most people will be receiving a few duds this year (and, indeed, giving them). For those who can't face the returns queue, a recent American Express survey found that 28 per cent of cardholders had found a practical and thrifty way of resolving the problem: simply rewrapping the white elephant and giving it away to someone else.

success. It's hard work sometimes but clearly the pluses outweigh the negatives.

In what way could you describe yourself as a typical only child? Anna Hopkins, Huntingdon. I couldn't because I'm an only child from a single-parent family. Double trouble!

In one interview, you said you felt like an outsider because your mother left you at an early age and you were seen as "the odd kid with red hair". Have you reconciled either of these two things?

Julia Ramsay, Chelmsford. No, actually I haven't and whenever I read some horrible comment about me or my hair, for example, I realise I never will.

Do you think white people really can sing soul?

Will O'Deng, Camden, London.

Do you think black people really can

Jan Blake, Newcastle. Spaghetti al pomodoro e basilico. Predictable but eternally classic.

I used to see you DJing at Manchester Poly - would you like to try your hand at it again?

Paul Ellis, Whalley Range, Manchester.

I still do from time to time. I have

great memories of my time at Manchester Poly. I still enjoy DJing

from time to time.

How many houses do you own and where are they?

Robert May, Chelmsford.

I have a house just outside London

and an apartment in Milano.

What do you think is the worst aspect of working in the music business?

Mark Chisholm, Shepherd's Bush, London.

Feeling like a supermarket item.

Seeing new fads becoming special

Would you rather be Marvin Gaye, Al Green or Aretha Franklin? Nick Johnston, Luton. I am their illegitimate ménage à trois son!

You claim to be a Mancunian so how can you justify supporting Man United?

Brendan Smyth, Wythenshawe, Manchester.

Hi Ha! How can you claim to be a Mancunian from Wivvy? Man City are now a registered charity.

It's a crying shame... I miss the

Derbies.

Your label Blood and Fire is such a success - why do you think people are still interested in reggae from the late Seventies?

Jessica Webb, Truro, Cornwall.

It truly was the golden era for Jamaican music, a bit like the Swinging Sixties if you like - except they were digging the Old Testament, Marcus Garvey and Haile Selassie.

What's your favourite reggae album?

Rob Turner, Redditch.

One of these four: Social Living, Burning Spear; Two Sevens Clash, Culture; Under Heavy Manners, Prince Far I; Heart of the Congos, The Congos.

Do you ever regret having a ruby put in your tooth?

Daisy O'Sullivan, Banbury.

No I love it, I'm very happy with it.

Jarvis Cocker famously shunned New Labour's courtship - how come you didn't?

James Lee, Islington, London.

Because I don't need to huff-lick the trendy pseudo-hip, self-absorbed elements of the popular music and fashion press.

How do you think you will celebrate the Millennium?

Chris Walsh, Tenby.

With my dearest friends.

I've got an original copy of your single "Holding Back the Years" by Frantic Elevators. Is it worth anything?

Francis Ross, Derby.

A few hundred quid, apparently.

Who would you like to find in your Christmas stocking this Christmas morning?

Carol Macleod, West Lothian, Scotland.

My future wife!

Live at the Lyceum, a compilation of Simply Red's recent live concerts will be broadcast on BBC1, 12 December at 11.55pm.

THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

20: STRANGERS WHO WANT TO TALK BY ANN TRENEMAN

I'M NOT big on prayer but I make an exception when it comes to public transport.

I am not asking for a safe journey; even God cannot control molecules of frost on the rail line or airline runway fatigue. No, I am praying that no one talks to me. Now you may wonder if I am so vain as to think that a complete stranger would want to talk to me. But vanity has nothing to do with it. Some people will talk to anyone and, in my case, it is never just a chat. They want to tell me everything.

Prayer being unreliable, I have developed back-up behaviours aimed at inducing silence in anyone bar psycho or religious fanatics. No eye contact is allowed. So when you get to your seat, under no circumstances should you even glance at the person beside you. If they say "Hello", mumble and start to read. Anything will do, though aeroplane vomit-bag instructions can get a bit tedious.

It is crucial that you do not react to anything your neighbour does. If they ask for a hit of your newspaper, hand it over without eye contact. If they talk on the phone, ignore it. If they sing, stare out of the window. I am so religious about this rule that once, on the last train home, I realised that everyone else had left the carriage.

All this comes to mind because the other day I



No chat please, we're British

Gary Doak

neighbour who, it transpired, had thrown up. Still, at least we didn't have to chat about it first.

Some people are more persistent than others. Women in headscarves are prone to chat. Ditto people travelling in a group - choir members, football fans, hen-night types. Sometimes they simply have to move. In the case of genuine psychotics, though, moving doesn't work: they follow you. The last one that sat beside me babbled the whole way, head jerking this way and that, with occasional attempts to set me and himself on fire. Eye contact was the least of my problems.

It was time to get serious. I opened my paper and began to practise my ritual avoidance technique. Soon I noticed that the man had started to read the timetable to another man sitting across the aisle. Both seemed pleased, and were soon chatting away about timetables they had known and loved. Isn't it great when they find each other?

THE KING

ALTHOUGH ENOUGH happy-go-lucky whistling and singing, the King and I is not a musical to sing along to.

It's a play of grand proportions. The King has to put on a show, the more robust the better, to make the English audience buy in to the story.

He's a more significant figure than a ticket-seller until you get to the point of the ticket. The King is a more significant figure than a ticket-seller until you get to the point of the ticket.

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Count Alexander von Beregshasy
He is wearing The Count Alexander Diamond, a 713-carat cubic zirconia, set in white gold with platinum plating – the largest zirconia in the world, he says. 'I want to bring out the peacock in every gentleman,' he says



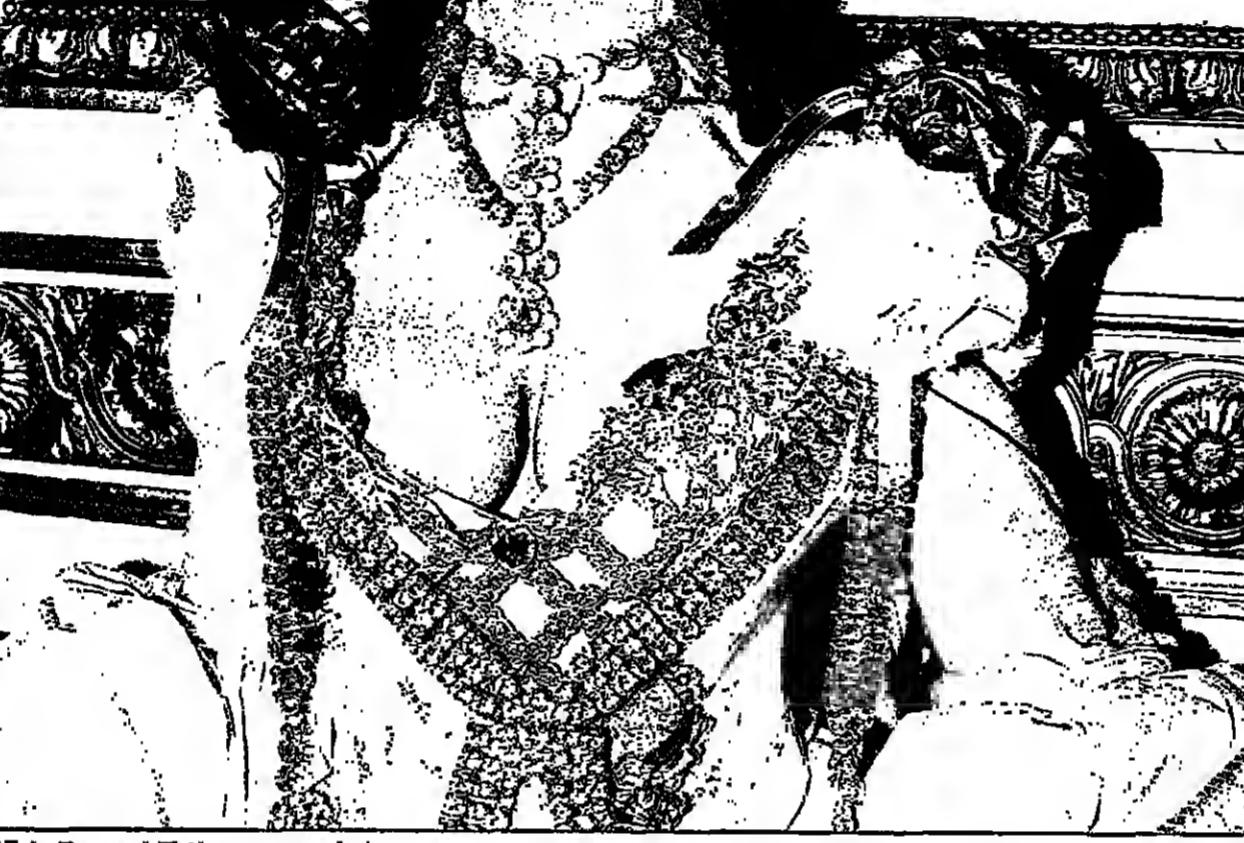
Olivia Barnard-Firth – costume designer
Olivia is wearing the replica in jewels and clothing reputed to have been bought for Marie Antoinette just before she was beheaded. Consequently she never actually wore the crown. 'Beauty is what tonight is all about. Beauty brings such joy and happiness into lives, everyone should try to be beautiful every day. I live in the country and own horses, ducks and chickens. Even when I muck out the chickens I am glamorous,' she says. *Photographs: Suzy del Campo / Interviews: Amy Jones*



Baroness Ilse von Beregshasy – the Count's mother
Her jewels are from the Ice Queen collection and consist of 214-carat zirconias and baroque pearls. The tiara is a copy of the Tsarina of Russia's made by Cartier in 1910. 'I feel so proud of my son, he just wants to share the beauty of the jewels,' she says



Pandora Gorey – the Count's lady in waiting
Her jewels are from a new parure of fantasy jewels, made to Pandora's own design. 'The idea is based on spiders crawling around on dew-drenched grass in the morning mist. I love it, I feel as if I am walking on air.'



Ursula Adam – historical dancer
The jewels are a replica of a parure in pink topaz and diamond that was worn by Katherine The Great. 'Tonight I feel like an aristocrat. I am 18th century. We all like a little fantasy and this is the perfect occasion to indulge,' she says



Karen Wright – theatrical costumer
Her jewels are from the Katherine The Great parure. She is wearing her own dress, which took a week to make. 'I feel like Katherine The Great. This is my first year at this occasion although I have attended other soirees at Count Alexander's,' she says

The Count of many crystals

On St Nicholas's Day, Count Alexander von Beregshasy invited his friends to wear his jewels at the Ritz. By John Windsor

Count Alexander von Beregshasy was wearing a replica of the Hope diamond, a full-length, three-tiered cape, a silk velvet ruffed shirt, a pair of black riding-breeches, black hussar boots with spurs – and two rings on each hand.

'I always wear my jewels,' he said. So will we all, if he realises his dream. Women will don diamond tiaras, dazzling, bodice-smothering necklaces, stomachers, bracelets, brooches and chandelier earrings dripping with diamonds.

Replica diamonds, that is. The count makes and sells the world's biggest replica rocks including, most recently, the crown jewels of France, Austria and Russia, which he has been privileged to hold in his cotton-gloved hands. He did not dare to touch the Hope diamond in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington – because of its deadly reputation. He studied it from a distance of a few inches.

His shop, just opened, is a tiny cubicle, like a jewel box, in The Mall, the antique arcade in Islington, north London. It glitters with a 4ft-wide Austrian Maria Theresa crystal chandelier with 25 candle-hubs, surplus from Buckingham Palace, dangling Rococo angels, and a life-size gold angel holding a crown, suspended from a gold rose garland entwined with fairy lights.

He has made 16 life-size, lifelike glass fibre mannequins, including Marie Antoinette's lady-in-waiting, with a galleon hairstyle, which is in his shop. He calls them his 'perfect people'. In his window is a mannequin of Faye Dunaway star of Michael Winner's film, *The Wicked Lady*, wearing a ruby-studded velvet gown by the *haute couture* period dressmaker Olivia Barnard-Firth – who makes the count's own outfits – and his ruby-and-diamond winter jewel collection. A sign above the mannequin says: 'A wicked lady always gets what she wants for Christmas.'

The Count surrounds himself with wicked ladies – well, playfully wicked ones at least – notably at the Ritz, where they gather at his dinner parties resplendent in long gowns and the complete parures he has made for them. The last such extravaganza celebrated St Nicholas's

Day on Sunday. 'I want to bring some sparkle, glamour, opulence, decadence, to this dull city of ours,' he says. 'I'm not from this century, I'm from the 18th century, and this is my mission in this life. It's just not true that you can have too much of a good thing. My aim is to gild the lily.'

'Just as Diana, Princess of Wales wanted to be Queen of Hearts, I want to be Queen of Diamonds. I want to make dreams come true.'

His great-grandmother was a Hohenzollern; his grandmother designed costumes for the opera in Linz, Austria, and his mother, the Baroness von Beregshasy, guided him as a child through the splendours of the palaces and castles of central Europe.

'I want to be Queen of Diamonds, I want to make dreams come true'

'For as long as I can remember,' he says, 'I have been attracted to anything that glitters and sparkles.'

The family title was a reward for being the only Austro-Hungarian family, apart from Count Dracula's, to take up arms against the Turks in the 15th century. The count wears his family's gold signet ring, dating back to 1700, which is engraved with a horseman raising a sword upon which a Turk's head is impaled, while the horse tramples the decapitated foe.

A word of warning: never say 'jewellery' within his earshot. 'Such a cheap and common word,' he says. 'You would never hear the Queen referring to the Crown Jewels as jewellery. They are jewels.'

Even replica jewels have their pride, it seems, and even royalty has been proud to wear replica jewellery. Marie Antoinette, for instance, sometimes wore necklaces made from the finest cut crystal and backed with gold foil. Nobody could tell the difference – especially below those blazing 100-candle chandeliers in the state rooms of the Palace of Versailles.

Count Alexander uses crystal of the same highest quality – Austrian mountain crystal that is ground to a paste, laced with lead them machine-cut, and hand-cut Russian zirconia – a diamond-like rock crystal that can be distinguished from the real thing only under laser light. The count backs the stones with 24-carat antique gold – he eschews modern gold because it apparently has a 'vulgar glitter'.

His *tour de force* is Maria Antoinette's necklace made from 500 rose-cut Austrian crystals and comprising two pieces – a collar tied with a satin ribbon, and broad, sumptuous swags with tassels, suspended from the shoulders. He discovered an accurate design for it in a Paris flea-market. His replica was worn for the first time at the Ritz. (See main picture, above.)

The count's private clients include ageing members of the nobility who arrive at his shop carrying plastic supermarket bags, from which they gingerly extract 19th-century jewel boxes containing tiaras last worn at their weddings or the Queen's coronation. They have had to pay extra insurance in order to take them out of their bank vaults for a day, so that the count can measure them to make a replica.

'Jewels are meant to be worn,' he says. 'But what's the point of buying a tiara from Cartier if you are constantly afraid of being mugged or even killed for it?'

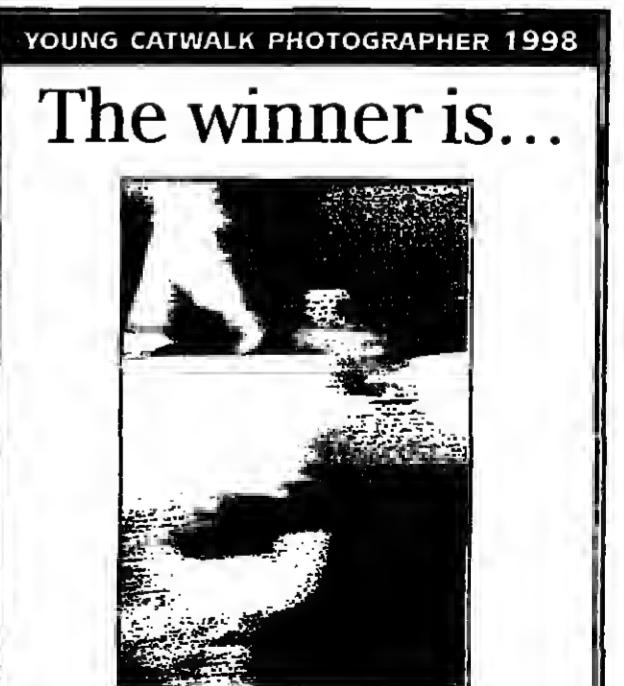
Always tell people that your jewels are not real, he advises – it's safer that way – and take care of them. Their natural enemies are perfume and hairspray, which cling like a yellow glue to the stones, attracting grime and causing them to disintegrate. Even real diamonds hate sticky cosmetic sprays. His advice: spray on the perfume, wait 10 minutes – then put on the jewels and step out into the bright lights.

Prices: from £50 for a pair of Austrian crystal stud earrings, to £1,350 for an Austrian crystal Tiara or £5,000 for a Russian zirconia necklace. Each jewel is signed and is in a limited edition of 100. They come in splendid boxes.

Count Alexander Beregshasy, 14 The Mall Antique Arcade, 359 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 (0171-354 0059). The nearest underground station is Angel



Prince John Hepburn – an old friend of the Count's
The large brooch is a replica of the order of the garter. The smaller ruby brooch is a replica of the order of St John from Austria. The final piece is a replica from Katherine The Great. 'To be able to wear and see these jewels is a magnificent honour,' he says



Congratulations to Amanda Cannon, the winner of The Independent and Clothes Show Live's Young Catwalk Photographer of the Year award. The brief was to capture 'the heart of fashion' at the British Heart Foundation fashion show. Amanda wins an Olympus OM 2000 camera plus kit, and work experience with The Independent's catwalk photographer during London Fashion Week in February 1999. Two runners-up, Anna Thompson and Calum Renton, both receive an Olympus IS-10 camera plus kit.

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Michael Glover
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Less show, more business

What transforms a mere musical into a blockbuster? The star? Perhaps. The score? Possibly. Or is it the hard sell? On Broadway and in the West End, more and more shows are nothing but triumphs of marketing. Oh really? By David Benedict

Cynics are much given to casting a jaundiced eye over the West End and muttering to themselves: "It's all marketing." They're convinced that the long-running success of tourist attractions such as *Les Misérables* or *The Phantom of the Opera* is a triumph of hard sell over substance. Now, these two shows are probably their creators' finest achievements, but the gloom merchants may have certainly touched upon something.

The recently departed head of external affairs at the Royal Opera House, Judy Grahame, has just teamed up with the Saatchi brothers to form a new Arts Marketing operation. Interviews with her have mistakenly suggested that arts organisations need more sophisticated marketing - i.e. M&C Saatchi Arts - to reach their potential audiences. She should take a closer look around her at theatredland. Once upon a time, it was show business; now it's show business.

Unless you are the proprietor of one of the grander hotel chains, you are unlikely to have heard of the Society of the Golden Keys. This all-but-clandestine coterie is made up entirely of concierges who, among other activities, go to West End shows for free. Why? Because they're one of around 15 to 20,000 little-known organisations who are responsible for party bookings. Or, to put it more simply, they put bums on seats.

These group sales organisations range from individuals running local amateur drama societies to major company social secretaries and bus and coach operators to international tour bookers, all of whom book on behalf of members or clients. And whether they are multinational or strictly minor-league, they are all wooed by producers as part of the group sales initiative.

Although the figure is lower in this country, group sales on a hit show in the US, such as Disney's stupendously successful *The Lion King*, can account for between 25 and 35 per cent of capacity. That's a helluva lot of tickets, all of which are paid for well in advance, which is great news for investors who anxiously await payback, let alone profit. With production costs spiralling into knee-weakening, double-figure millions for a Broadway blockbuster, such considerations are crucial, particularly in the run-up to opening when producers need as big an advance as possible to bankroll the initial run. This is the most difficult period to sell, as there is no word of mouth and the only enticement is often the name of the star, or, in the case of Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer - his name generates box-office revenue.

However, the longer a show runs, the more significant group sales become. Ticket availability is divided up into separate date periods: "Now Booking until April" (or whenever). Within each period, wily producers aim to pre-sell entire swathes of tickets to agencies and groups before the general public even gets a look in. Pre-sell a healthy percentage and you not only make money faster, but you also create pressure on the remaining tickets. This means that they tend to move faster; to the point where a show is generating its own



Max Zaduk's publicity shots for the 'Chicago' campaign, including, top, Ruthie Henshall astride the show's logo

hype by being permanently sold out. However, such "Returns Only" announcements are sometimes only partly true: dedicated audiences can often find seats via agencies who have been unable to shift their pre-bought tickets.

All of which suggests that large-scale successes - especially musicals - don't survive through quality and word of mouth alone. Indeed, the days of seats being sold simply by theatregoers reading reviews and trotting round to the box office of their own accord are long gone. Cameron Mackintosh, the

Really Useful Group, and nearly all the other major players, rely upon a dizzying array of little-known marketing initiatives that can yield spectacular box-office returns.

Some producers, notably Robert Fox or Michael Codron, who specialise in quality productions of straight theatre - transfers from the National and/or plays by solid writers such as Ayckbourn - have little time for much of this, but everyone else relies on an entire infrastructure of agencies, group sales, and theatre publicity firms. And all of these are reliant upon advertising.

Theatre advertising amounts to a promise which the show must deliver on. *Chicago* does this in spades on the back of one of the most striking campaigns in recent history. The startlingly sexual imagery - photography by Max Zaduk - had already gone down a storm in its Broadway incarnation. But the most daring thing about the campaign on both sides of the Atlantic was the deliberate eschewal of the accepted practice of splashing adjectives in huge type across pictures of the stars, and generally hyping the production to the sky. The *Chicago* cam-

paign looked more like a succession of Calvin Klein spreads displayed everywhere in a nine-week blitz leading up to opening night. The only thing that told you it was a show were the words: "Chicago, The Drop Dead Musical", splashed across the ads in murderous blood red.

No one will admit to the size of the weekly running costs, but with a wage bill for 15 musicians and a cast of 26, including star names commanding four-figure weekly salaries, the word "steep" just about covers it. Nevertheless, the campaign worked. (The Broadway production

recouped its investment in record time: a jaw-dropping 21 weeks.)

The six-month London campaign began in May 1997, but it didn't really get going until the now failed industry launch in July at the Prince of Wales Theatre. In an unprecedented move, the producers, Fran and Barry Weissler, invited ticket agencies, advertisers, group bookers and selected members of the press to the theatre one lunchtime and proceeded to show a video of the New York production. The already charged atmosphere exploded when the entire New York

cast burst through the scree and performed half a dozen of the show's numbers live on stage. It cost more than £50,000 to fly the company over (and back on time to perform the next day), but it jump-started the campaign with a vengeance.

Crispin Ollington, formerly of Dewynters, the advertising/marketing company who control the London campaign - now working directly for the Weisslers - believes that although the presentation didn't immediately yield a lot of return, it instilled enormous confidence in ticket agents, who are crucial to the equation. "In the USA, there are no ticket agencies of consequence," he explains. "Here, agencies can be responsible for up to 50 per cent of sales." He points to the fact that, like Cameron Mackintosh (whose organisation is very good at this), the Weisslers had the courage of their convictions - they knew they had a winner after all - and looked after their group hookers and sales agents with extraordinary care, which is not always the case. "If agents feel resentful, they are not going to sell the show," Ollington points out. He is firmly of the opinion that audiences are not fools, but concedes that the hype can certainly add to a show's momentum.

That view is shared by Nick Blackburn of Ticketmaster, the country's largest ticket agency. They work on a commission basis - negotiated separately on every production - with costs passed on to the buyers at a rate (in this instance) of £1 per ticket. A worldwide operation with 24-hour computerised box offices, Ticketmaster helps market shows via media partners such as Tower Records and HMV, plus direct mailing; their own priority booking club has 42,000 members alone. He admits that on *Chicago*, the buzz from the advertising campaign was so strong that the impetus for bookers was already there. He thinks the real push will come later in the run, and cites Mackintosh as someone who is particularly hot on the ability to find audiences through years two, three, and beyond. "Even with a smash hit, you have to keep that as the public perception. The job is to keep it up there."

Thus, in tandem with Dewynters, *Chicago* will continue to spend on advertising, direct mailings, entertaining hookers, promotional evenings, print distribution, new posters, leaflets, classified advertising, display advertising, and radio and sales promotions. No one is prepared to divulge precise figures, but Ollington admits that anyone with dreams of blockbuster West End musical success had better think of spending around £500,000.

Even the most cynical marketer will tell you that you cannot market your way out of a disaster. If a show is terrible, word gets out and you might as well pack up and go home. But add careful marketing to good material, and you have a recipe for serious success.

But it's not a blueprint. If a show is playing to 20 per cent business, there is little that you can do to save it. But with a potential winner hovering around the 60/70 per cent mark, marketing can make a serious difference. And in the commercial theatre, the difference between loss and profit is all the difference in the world.

ON THE FRINGE

THE KING AND I BAC, LONDON ■ KILLING RASPUTIN BRIDEWELL, LONDON ■ IF I WERE LIFTED UP FROM EARTH LINCOLN'S INN, LONDON



The King and I

ALTHOUGH SUPPLIED with enough happy tunes to keep you whistling for hours, *The King and I* is not the easiest musical to stage. It requires a display of pomp fit for an autocrat. The king of Siam has to put on a good show, the more robust it appears - the more we are drawn into the process by which Anna, the English schoolteacher brought in to enlighten the royal household, fatally (albeit lovingly) strips away the decorative layers to expose the uncertain masculine ego they sustain.

In 1956, Hollywood could rustle up palatial opulence and a cast of thousands for Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway hit. In 1998, at the BAC, Phil Willmott does his level best to match that cod-Oriental splendour, offering a multi-ethnic cast list as long as the local phone book, more colour and scent than a florist's in May and more glitter than Ratner's. The audience sits under butterfly- and pomander-strewn awnings before a hand-made throne shaped like a double-headed bird.

Rupert Tebb's design is in keeping with the peacockish and polygynous spirit that Anna (an admirably calm and collected Lindsey Damers) counters with Victorian notions of self-restraint and egalitarianism. Initially, though, it appears that the enterprise will fail in the vainglorious attempt. A harem's worth of garishly clad women rush in from all sides, forming cooing sordid ranks in obeisance to their lord. Before long, the small acting area is also thronging with tots. It's only a matter of time, you think, before teacher's hoop skirt sends one of them flying.

But somehow - all credit to the choreographer, Jack Gurn - disaster is averted. If the show isn't quite a triumph, that's partly because of the sound (heavy on the synth and drums) and partly because Willmott seems uncertain as to how to tackle the imperial/colonial politics. Although Alan Moseley's King has Yul Brynner's hip-bolding poise, shaved crown and visibly soft heart, he is performing in an era where the "me

signs of a botched job. There are the bare bones of a good idea: that Yusupov, the aristocrat who freed the ruling Romanovs from the mystic's grip just before the Revolution, was eroticly in thrall to this peasant upstart; the murder was a statement of self-liberation.

As Yusupov, Hal Fowler has a confident singing voice that satisfactorily belies the character's riven sexuality, while Jerome Pradon fits the bill as a bearded figure of malevolent intensity. But though Ian Brown's production (beautifully lit by Simon Mills) seems sure of itself, the journey by which the two men fall in and out of affection gets mired in flummery-filled numbers ("Evil nourishes good, young man" sounds like Harry Enfield, not wisdom) and the rigmarole of historical inevitability. Russia's greatest love machine does get a brief orgy. Perhaps if they upped the body count, the writers might have a hit.

AdnBC Theatre Company's resurrection play *If I Were Lifted Up from Earth* Lincoln's Inn Chapel, WC2, 8pm, tonight only (0870 8701023)

Earth is more than well intentioned, boasting a musically far removed from the excesses of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. In the early-17th-century Lincoln's Inn Chapel, this remarkable production derives its powerful rhythms from William Tyndale's 1534 translation of the New Testament.

"No Tyndale, no Shakespeare" is the slogan here, but the resonances are as much Gavin Bryars as the Bard. A group of Fifites-dressed, barefoot disciples dart about, their words inwardly intoned or thrown across the congregation in exhilarating antiphons, forcing heads to turn in the shoulder-high pews. Catch it before it disappears as fast as Elliot Levey's hip and hypnotic Jesus.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

The King and I, BAC, London SW11 0171-223 2223 to 10 Jan; *Killing Rasputin*, The Bridewell, EC4 (0171-336 3456) to 16 Jan; *If I Were Lifted Up from Earth*, Lincoln's Inn Chapel, WC2, 8pm, tonight only (0870 8701023)

New lamps for old

REVIEW

ALADDIN
SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE

THIS IS the time of year when actors, sufficed by the title of the current hot television property, stagger into the floodlights to test their rusty theatre skills. But if you were worried that traditional pantomime had been relegated to the village hall, be cheered to know that there is one corner of the land still uncontaminated by the mediocrity of commercialism, where jobbing actors demonstrate their mastery of stagecraft without relying on cheap gimmicks and cheaper fare.

Salisbury Playhouse's *Aladdin* is traditional to the tips of its turned-up shoes, refusing to rely on lavish effects or topical trivialities. There is little here that would not have been familiar - and entertaining - to an audience a century ago. Some things (such as moonlight and love songs) are over out of date, and this truly traditional entertainment has the Playstation generation on the edge of its seats screaming with delight.

The composer, Kate Edgar's

strength lies partly in the power of the ensemble. Another reviewer oo another night could lavish equal praise on three other actors. Shining through Colin Wakefield's script and Edgar's direction is an intelligence that has considered the child's-eye view, including enough gags aimed at the shortest-trousered audience members to prevent their attention from wandering. There is constant interaction across the footlights, and an ample smattering of well managed and eagerly contributed audience participation. It takes a slightly ironic sense of bumptious to make one of the biggest audience shout-outs the word "Mummy"; oh, how they can bellow that!

The final test of any pantomime is its ability to appeal to a vast age range. From engrossed four-year-olds through cheering teenagers to smiling adults, Salisbury's *Aladdin* appears to enrapture everyone. It's rare that any production genuinely deserves the title of "a show for all the family". But this does.

TOBY O'CONNOR MORSE

To 16 January (01722 320333)



Out of loyalty to teams such as Arsenal, supporters may be induced to buy pensions, insurance and other products recommended by the company *Daily Mirror*

A pitch for the fans

We buy the scarf, the shirt and the bobble hat in support of our favourite football team – so why not choose the financial services they recommend? By Alison Steed

For many of us, football is a religion. We attend our team's weekend and weekday "services" with fanatical regularity.

Stuart Biddle, professor of exercise and sports psychology at Loughborough University, explains the phenomenon: "People [have] a tribe mentality. They like to identify with a team, or an area, a region, a town, and sport is a good way of doing that, particularly if the side is successful. It gives people a sense of belonging, a social identity."

As part of our support, we buy our team's football shirts, scarves, mugs, bobble hats and other paraphernalia. But this, it appears, is not enough. Financial services firms, and the clubs themselves, want more. They want us to purchase everything – pensions, insurance, credit cards, savings accounts – from their nominated companies.

Leeds United is one of the latest teams to cosy up to an insurance company. It recently joined forces with Allied Dunbar to offer a full range of financial services to 100,000 fans in the UK. Its affinity products have so far generated £250,000 in profit this year. Part of the deal involves perks, such as free match tickets, to fans who discuss financial products with club representatives.

Jeff Wagland, external affairs director at Allied Dunbar, says: "These products are things that Leeds fans

could get through Allied Dunbar advisers anyway, if they wanted to."

Allied Dunbar's Adaptable Pension Plan, sold through Leeds United, offers a facility to stop and start contributions at any time, plus disability waiver. Its charging structure is front-end-loaded, giving high transfer and paid-up values at the beginning of the plan but above-average maturity values at the end.

Charles Levett-Sriven, product services director of Town Law, a firm of independent financial advisers, says: "Normally that is looked upon as a bad thing, I would suspect with football fans that it is."

"We did this survey earlier in the year. At the end of year one, Allied Dunbar's transfer value, based on £100 per month contributions, was £271, compared to the average of £671. Standard Life offered £1,090, and Scottish Mutual £1,122. At five years, Allied Dunbar's would be £5,270, the average would be £5,845, and Standard Life would be £5,440."

Paid-up values follow a similar pattern, and no free switches between funds are offered.

The club is working as an appointed representative for the life company, so there is no product option, but the allegation that fans get a bad deal is refuted.

Adam Pearson, commercial director of Leeds United, says: "To say that affinity [products] give you incentives from the club, and help the club but give the fan a poorer rate,

is totally wrong... Supporters are not daft; if the deal is not right they will not purchase it."

Tony Tierney, managing director of Rangers Financial Services, agrees. "There may be a warmer reception from the fans, as there is an affinity for the club. But they still have to be satisfied that what is being presented to them is something that they want to have."

In both cases, the club uses money from its financial services business to boost the playing team.

There is no denying, however, that interest rates on some associated

savings accounts are lower than on comparable accounts elsewhere. Egg, for example, is offering 8 per cent gross on an instant-access account.

The highest value for a football-related savings account, the Derby County account with Bank of Scotland, pays 6.5 per cent gross. The lowest is only 2.4 per cent gross through the Coventry City account with Market Harborough.

Warren Perry, senior investment manager of Whitechurch Securities, another financial advice firm, says: "Newcastle offer financial ser-

vices products, and they have got such a phenomenal following, so loyal, that anything to do with the club is almost a 'need-to-have' product, as opposed to a 'want-to-have' product. [But] people do need to shop around."

Pensions is a main area of concern. Unlike building society accounts, pensions are difficult to compare. The other problem is that the margins are much higher in pensions. Allied Dunbar and Standard Life both offer pensions through clubs, and Legal & General is in talks with a number of clubs about offering its financial products, including pensions and Individual Savings Accounts from April next year.

Justin Modray, investment adviser at Chasse de Vere, says: "Think carefully before you take out a club product and ask yourself whether you are compromising your investment, especially with a pension. It is a massive investment for the whole of your life. With a savings account, if you feel you are getting a bad deal, you can easily go elsewhere."

However, fans themselves appear to be happy with the situation, as long as it gives them a better team and better facilities. John Macmillan, general secretary of Glasgow Rangers Supporters Association, says: "If supporters want to do their homework and get some advice, then they may find that they get a better deal elsewhere. But it would be up to each individual to look at that."

SCORING BETTER INTEREST RATES		
Bank/building society	Football club	Rate (gross per annum)
Bank of Scotland	Derby County	4.5%–6.5%
Birmingham Midshires	Birmingham City	4.50%
Britannia	Ipswich	5.25%–6.25%
	Man Utd	–
	Port Vale	–
	Stoke	–
Leeds and Holbeck	Leeds United	2.50%–5.25%
Market Harborough	Coventry City	2.40%–6.05%
Norwich & Peterborough	Norwich City	3.15%–5.43%
West Bromwich	West Bromwich Albion	4.25%–5.00%
Woolwich	Charlton Athletic	4.91%
Yorkshire Soc	Huddersfield Town	3.00%–4.05%
Credit Cards	Arsenal	19.9% APR
Bank of Scotland	Norwich City	19.9% APR
	Celtic	21.7% APR
Co-Op	Liverpool	19.0% APR
MBNA	Birmingham City	23.2% APR
RSB	Rangers FC	–

Source: Chasse de Vere

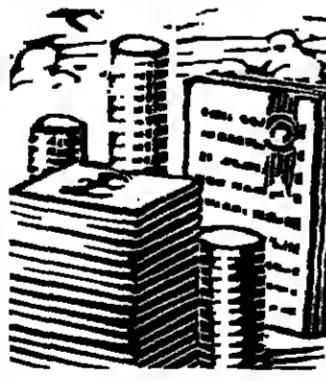
The day the bread bin ordered buns

ISN'T it remarkable how quickly you can change from a Master of the Universe to a whimpering toddler? I should know: I've spent the past two weeks battling the worst flu I've ever had. By the time I was able to move from bed to the sofa, I felt like the scraps from a vampire's banquet and was probably about as interesting to talk to. All the more generous, then, of Laura to pop in every evening on her way back from work to see how I was getting on.

"Don't worry, you're doing me a favour, too," she said on the third visit. "Rory's dragged all the others off to some hideous brokers' Christmas party, but I used you as an excuse to escape."

And with that, we got down to chatting. Findlay, it seems, has found out about a fridge that can e-mail you at work to tell you when you're low on milk or orange juice or whatever.

"Anyways," said Laura, "he was going on and on about it, and how you could put it in your kitchen cupboards as well. And then we realised that's what must have happened to that trader the other week. The one who did or didn't lose £10m. He's obviously testing a prototype. His bread bin sent him an e-mail saying, 'Buy



THE TRADER

hunks!" and he misread it and bought buns instead."

The following evening, Laura turned up again clutching a box of chocolates and a copy of the new trading system manual.

"I thought you might want to have a look at our great masterpiece," she said. "It looks great, doesn't it?"

So we found ourselves laughing about all the work we'd put into it, and how awful the trading system had been before we got it sorted out.

"Do you remember?" said Laura. "It had so many holes in it, we were thinking of gathering them all together into

one big hole and offering it to the Jubilee Line. I wish you weren't ill; it's boring without you." Then she went home.

The next day a vast bouquet of roses and lilies arrived for me. Suddenly I felt a million times better, so when Laura rang, saying she couldn't make it that evening, I didn't mind.

"I'll lie on the sofa and gaze at that amazing bouquet you all sent me. Did you choose it?" I asked. There was a pause.

"Choose it?" said Laura. "I didn't even know about it. I expect Rory sorted it out."

And we agreed that that must have been what happened, and Laura went back to her number-crunching. Later on, the doorbell rang. It couldn't be Laura, so it was almost bound to be Jehovah's Witnesses. But the voice over the intercom was a familiar one. "Hello Miss Invalid. Can I come in?"

I felt my heart skip a beat. What was Jaap doing here? And why was I so pleased to see him? As he walked into the flat he spotted the flowers and smiled.

"Do you like them?" he said.

"I chose them specially."

I felt my knees go weak. But of course they would, I told myself. That's what happens when you have flu.

THE CONSOLIDATION at the top of the accounting market is generally reckoned to have put the squeeze on firms nestled just below what are now the Big Five – to such an extent that another round of mergers is seen to be inevitable.

However, while some of these so-called second-tier practices are known to be exploring such deals, Pannell Kerr Forster is adamant that they do not represent the only route to survival. While not ruling out a link-up all together, Martin Goodchild, the recently appointed managing partner, points out that in this area "marrying in cultures becomes very difficult". In particular, he says, such a deal "has got to make commercial sense, rather than just mean getting bigger".

This size is not everything, this attitude carries through into his strategy for the Hutton Garden-based firm. Explaining why he is pleased to have reported fee income for the year to 30 April marginally ahead of the last 12 months, at £74.4m, Mr Goodchild says: "We've concentrated on growing profit rather than turnover. There's no point in growing revenues if you're not making money."

To some extent, Mr Goodchild is right when he says that increasing partners' earnings in this way is an important basis for future growth. After all, nothing makes partners more disgruntled than the perception that they are falling behind in the pay league.

Quite. But Mr Goodchild and his team have achieved in the past year only a negligible improvement in net profit, from £15.7m to £15.9m. The rise is more dramatic when it

is put in terms of average profit per partner – £125,000 against £112,000 last time round – because the number of partners has been reduced from 140 to 126.

To some extent, Mr Goodchild is right when he says that increasing partners' earnings in this way is an important basis for future growth. After all, nothing makes partners more disgruntled than the perception that they are falling behind in the pay league.

And, as one or two other middle-market firms have found, once such people start to vote with their feet

the organisation as a whole is on the slippery slope. Stressing that some partners have been with the firm for decades, he says that "partner loyalty is very good".

But whether Mr Goodchild has come up with a sustainable strategy for remaining an independent force depends just as much on his other policy – restructuring the firm to "meet future challenges".

This has already seen such moves as the disposal of the Aberdeen practice and the Worcester practice's insolvency arm – which means that growth on a like-for-like

Picking the perfect PEP

THE FIXERS:



TIM COCKERILL

being successful from day one. As for the windfalls, you have not paid a penny for them. Things are different when you sit down and start from scratch picking squares; that is why we recommend unit trusts and investment trusts. Your investment is managed on a daily basis by a professional manager and is spread between many different companies."

"But you can't invest through these in a single company PEP," said Mr Melton.

I replied: "Technically this is true, but there are a number of products that get around this problem. To qualify as a holding within a single company PEP you must hold a UK company or a European company. Unit and investment trusts are excluded. One or two investment groups have launched companies that qualify as European companies, but operate in a way similar to unit and investment trusts."

"What do you mean I can use my single company PEP allowance and put the money into an investment that spreads my risk?" said Mr Melton.

"Yes," I replied. "I like the HSBC Triple Allowance single company PEP. This invests in the UK, US, Europe and Japan, tracking their indices."

The following day I wrote a letter to Mr Melton outlining the basics of our conversation and explaining the HSBC Triple Allowance PEP in more detail.

This particular single company PEP fits Mr Melton's circumstances well. His overall portfolio of equities is worth £20,000, most of which is invested in unit trusts, and to invest £3,000 in a single share through a PEP would have been off-balance in relation to the rest of his portfolio.

Mr Melton decided to go ahead with his single company PEP investment in HSBC. He now wants me to look at his wife's circumstances: she liked the idea of investing in the Body Shop but is currently having second thoughts.

Tim Cockerill is managing director of Whitechurch Securities, independent financial advisers, 14 Gloucester Road, Bristol BS7 8AE (0800 374413).

Size is not everything

Mergers are not the only route to survival in the accounting field. By Roger Trapp



Martin Goodchild, managing partner of Pannell Kerr Forster

basis is in fact stronger than the headline figures indicate, he adds.

One area that will remain crucial is that of hotels and leisure, where the firm has a longstanding expertise that it is now using to diversify into buying and selling hotels. It also claims to be the only middle-market firm that can compete with the Big Five in developing software – and has sole programmes to organisations as diverse as the Lloyd's of London insurance market and the Keweenaw Club.

But whatever area it is operating in, the firm is determined to come across as entrepreneurial. Mr Goodchild's own career certainly bears out that policy, since he was for some time closely involved with the development of Sanctuary, a Stock Exchange-quoted entertainment business that is perhaps best known for managing the heavy metal rock group Iron Maiden.

"It's part of our entrepreneurial culture," explains Mr Goodchild, on the firm's policy of encouraging such links. "It gives an insight into what a real business is doing."

Consequently, he argues, it gives the firm greater credibility when seeking to advise clients that might have started small but are looking to expand internationally.

"They want a personal service from experts who understand their business," he says.

How I got my future all mapped out

I WORK FOR ...

DAISY EVANS WORKS FOR NICOLAS RABIN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ETAK, THE DIGITAL MAPPING COMPANY

Last year when I came back from Japan, where I had been teaching English for two years, I decided to apply for jobs within the business sphere because I wanted to learn how global business functioned. Feeling that information technology was the way forward in the business world, I narrowed my choice down to companies specialising in developing technological communications, although it was an area I knew little about. However, rather than retraining via a course, I decided to pick up skills on the job.

When I saw an advert for an assistant at a digital mapping company I took my fancy, and I applied for the position even though the company was asking for someone with two years' experience in a technology company. I had seen digital mapping applied to in-car navigation systems in Japan, and was curious to know more about how these devices worked, how they were being marketed and who was using them. The thought of being part of a company developing a geographic information system fascinated me.

At the interview Nicolas, my boss-to-be, seemed a little scary because he was the very image of a professional manager. I was intrigued to discover that he was actually the same age as me, which set me thinking about how professionalism is really an aspect of someone's character, rather than a mask adopted for the sake of it. I warmed to Nicolas when he emphasised that he was looking for someone with the right attitude as well as integrity, curiosity and enthusiasm – rather than just skills.

I told him that I was interested in the Internet and Web-based applications, so when we began developing our Intranet site, shortly after I arrived, I was given the chance to get involved in building it up. As the project developed, so did my understanding of an area of the application of data in computerised form. It also made my colleagues' work more accessible to me rather than shrouded in mystery. But it was only once I was given a demonstration of a personal navigation system, in the form of a lap-top sitting beside me on a car journey, that I saw how the pieces of the puzzle fitted together. It was amazing to be able to watch the real environment through which we were travelling reflected on the screen, while a satellite positioning



I'm not a conventional PA, but that's because Nicolas has a progressive approach,' says Daisy of her boss

Nicola Kurtz

signal tracked our movements. Meanwhile, the system was planning the most efficient route for us, leading us when to turn left and right and keeping us out of heavy traffic.

Ironically, I am not a big believer

in the car and prefer to travel on a bike – a very low-tech form of transport. But any form of technology that enhances traffic flow will also improve the life of other road users, and it seems absurd that the average frequent driver loses five working days a year waiting in traffic.

Nicolas and I have quite a subtle relationship, but I think that there is a very good level of trust between us. It amuses me that the stereotypical boss is seen as creative and disorganised, needing a PA to tidy up after him or her. The fact is that

I guess I am not really the conventional PA, but I think that's partly because Nicolas has a progressive approach towards his employees. He's not stuffy: instead he's encouraging and never puts people

of my colleagues here really impresses me.

With only 25 of us here, the office is small enough to have a family feeling. People aren't scared of telling jokes and interrupting each other and, since it's a young company, we all enjoy socialising together, which gives an additional energy to the working environment.

I feel quite a lot of freedom through my job, because it has helped to focus me and enhanced my self-discipline. As the business expands, I look forward to becoming more involved with it.

But already I get a sense of satisfaction from having made a contribution, however small, to the information revolution.

INTERVIEW BY KATIE SAMPSON

Catching the habit



THE TEMP

THERE IS more to Graham than meets the eye. Through my haze of exhaustion it begins to register that it's not just that he has no sense of humour and it's not just that he needs to be seen to be giving dictation. There is something seriously wrong beneath the suit.

I should have spotted it immediately, given that his first move after shaking my hand was to take a Wet One from the mega-pot in the shadow of the box files and wipe down his palm with it before dropping it, two-fingered, into the bin. I'm so used to odd reactions from new bosses that I just thought it was a new, imaginative way of making me feel unwelcome. It wasn't until I'd watched him surreptitiously do the same thing to three clients in a row that I started realising that this was a psychosis, not merely a weird way of pulling rank.

Graham, it seems, is terrified of germs. Now we're all a little nervous of what we can pick up in offices. They're not hygienic places, especially with air-conditioning carrying every cold virus breathed out by someone in the lift to every desk on the 15th floor. I mean, if the Queen can have

legionnaire's disease in the ventilation system at Buck House, what hope is there for other subjects? What with people's habit of nicking pens and then putting them in their mouths, it's surprising that any of us is still alive.

But that doesn't explain why Graham's Wet Ones are not, in fact, as I discovered when hunting through the box files for a copy of last month's board meeting minutes, Wet Ones at all, but a mega-box of sterile wipes. He uses them constantly. First thing in the morning, first thing after lunch and last thing at night. Graham wipes down his entire desk with a wad, paying special attention to the crevices around the drawer handles. Graham is the Michael Jackson of merchant banking.

And it's not just that. He uses them for wiping down pens, pencils, staplers, the keyboard of his computer, his fingers after he's handled a piece of paper. Once a week, a dignified young woman in an apron and rubber gloves, who doesn't seem to speak a word of English apart from "Good morning", comes round the office with a squirt bottle of something vaguely pine-scented and some J-cloths, and wipes over the earphones and

mouthpieces of the telephones. I find this vaguely comforting. I don't know if you've ever looked at the little holes on telephone mouthpiece, but it's quite a disturbing sight: slightly mushroomy, slightly cheesy. It's nice that someone is cleaning the funk out before they get us. Graham, however, isn't content with this. When she's there, he shrinks back from her. When she's gone, he gets out his wipers and carefully covers every square centimetre that she's already been over. And as he does it, his Adam's apple bobs as though he's trying to stop himself being sick.

The thing is, the habit is catching. I'd never looked at my environment in such detail before, or thought about where everything might have been. The pub must occasionally pass Health and Safety inspections, I guess, but I suddenly find myself washing my hands each time one of my builder clients emerges from the loo and hands me his glass for refilling, and I have to stop myself from doing the same after handling change. In the office, following Graham's lead, I have started checking coffee cups as they emerge from the machine in case some foreign body has attached itself to the outside.

Not that my boss has noticed. In fact, he regards me as unclean enough to go well beyond the call of duty. This morning, he arrived on time, and his skin was positively green. "Good morning, Graham," I said. He didn't answer; he seemed to be

concentrating on standing on one foot, while undoing the laces on the other with the tip of a paper knife. Then he slipped it off and waved it, sole first, at me, so I saw what was on the bottom. "Oh," I said, eyeing it.

Strangled syllables emerged from the very front of Graham's mouth, as though he was afraid to open his airways too wide. "Can you," he said, "deal with this?"

I'm calling the agency.

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Legal Notices

No. 0006176 of 1998

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF WOOD & WOOD INTERNATIONAL SIGNS LIMITED

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was filed on 7th November 1998

presented to Her Majesty's High Court for the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £1,000,000,000 to £1,000,000,000 of its entire debenture share capital.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Master of the Chancery Division Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL or Wednesday the 16th December 1998.

ANY creditor or shareholder of the Company may appear and object to the Petition or to the reduction of share capital or to the hearing of the Petition by filing a written statement with the Clerk under Section 173 of the Companies Act 1985.

A copy of the Petition will be furnished to any person requiring the same by the undersigned solicitor or payment of the regulated charge for its issue.

Dated this 9th day of December 1998
For and on behalf of the Petitioners
47 Castle Street, Reading RG1 7SR
Solicitors to the Company

No. 0006176 of 1998

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF GAINSBOROUGH STUD MANAGEMENT LIMITED

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court, Chancery Division dated 25th November 1998 confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £50,000,000 to £16,504,729 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several parts of the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 30th November 1998.

Dated 9th December 1998

G.D. WILD

Kent County Council,
County Hall,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ

County Secretary

SHARPE Pritchard
Elizabeth House,
Fulwood Place,
London, WC1V 6NC.

Parliamentary Agents

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1998-99

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by the Kent County Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") for leave to introduce a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under Section 27 of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") to amend the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") to give effect to the following:

(1) To provide that a person shall not carry on the business of a second-hand goods dealer unless he is registered as a PA of course, part of my job is to keep everyone up to date with Nicolas's agenda, but I don't work exclusively for him – and he certainly doesn't ask me to organise his personal life.

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1998-99

BAXI PARTNERSHIP LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by Baxi Partnership Limited and the Trustees of an employee benefit trust (hereinafter referred to as "Trust No. 27") to have introduced a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under Section 27 to give effect to the following:

1. To validate certain actions taken in the past by the trustees of two employee benefit trusts (Trusts No. 1 and No. 2) established by Baxi Partnership Limited, a private holding company, where doubt has been cast over whether these actions were technically in conformity with the law for the purpose of which the following is a concise summary:

2. To provide for the amendment of Trust No.2 by the replacement of two employee benefit trusts (Trusts No. 1 and No. 2) established by Baxi Partnership Limited, a private holding company, where doubt has been cast over whether these actions were technically in conformity with the law for the purpose of which the following is a concise summary:

3. To abolish the rules of law relating to perpetuities and personal trusts and any other enactment or rule of law restricting the accumulation of income under a trust similar as they relate to Trust No.27 to validate certain actions taken in the past by the trustees of two employee benefit trusts (Trusts No. 1 and No. 2) established by Baxi Partnership Limited, a private holding company, where doubt has been cast over whether these actions were technically in conformity with the law for the purpose of which the following is a concise summary:

On and after the 4th December 1998, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at a price of £1 per copy at the offices of the Company Secretary of Baxi Partnership Limited, Browndale Road, Barbridge, Preston, PR5 6SY and the undesignated Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for the deposit of such a Petition in the House of Lords will be 6th February 1999, if the Bill originates in the House of Lords or the 30th January 1999, if it originates in the House of Commons. Information regarding the deposit of such Petitions may be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undesignated Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1998

ADDLESHAW BOOTH & CO.
100 Barbican Square,
Manchester, M2 1JB.
Solicitors.

CHARLES RUSSELL
8-10 New Fetter Lane,
London, EC4A 1LS.
Solicitors.

SHARPE Pritchard
Elizabeth House,
Fulwood Place,
London, WC1V 6NC.
Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 30th day of November 1998

By Order of the Board
N. Boul, Director

RUSHMORE REED LIMITED

Registered No. 0382742. Trading or
Other Name: Rushmore Reed
United. Administrative Receiver:
Maurice Raymond Dennington EGM
100, Finsbury Square, London EC2M
4PN. Date of appointment: 1st
December 1998. By: *W. H. Rushmore*
Appointed: Singer & Friedlander
Factors Limited. Date of Mortgage
Debtors: 14th May 1998. Assets
Secured: The whole of the assets of
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Strand

Financial Controller

£35-40,000

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£25,000

WC2

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FINANCE DEPARTMENT

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FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Faculty Finance & Planning Officer - HR89

£23,232 to £24,866 pa inc

Our Faculty requires an enthusiastic and experienced Financial Planning Officer as soon as possible. The postholder will support the Dean in a range of duties including the preparation and development of the Faculty Plan, the preparation and control of the Faculty Budget, the processing of the Faculty's financial transactions, and the encouragement of enterprise in the development of new income-generating activities.

For further particulars please telephone 0181 392 3644 (24 hour answering machine) quoting the appropriate reference or write enclosing a large s.e.c. to Human Resources Office, Roehampton Institute London, Senate House, Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5PU. Email: hr@roehampton.ac.uk

Closing date for completed applications: 15th January 1999.

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Strand

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Assistant Management Accountant

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London

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14/150

NEW FILMS

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

Director: George Miller
Starring: Magda Szubanski, James Cromwell.
EG Daily
The follow-up to 1995's *Babe* tosses the hapless 'sheep-pig' into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of waifs. *Knockabout* comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale that verges on the sadistic. Adults should go a bundle on Miller's skewed, carnival ambience. What kids will make of it is anyone's guess.

West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Cunden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG)

Director: Pat O'Connor
Starring: Meryl Streep, Michael Gambon, Kathy Burke
Less a dance, more of a trudge, O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. But it's not enough, and its static, stage-play origins are all too readily apparent.

West End: Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U)

Director: Frank Capra
Starring: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore

Capra's festive bauble is a lot darker and more complex than it is generally given credit for being, with James Stewart's labouring everyman shown how dreary his hometown would have been had he never been born, before returning merrily to his job-like existence. Its syrupy sentimentality contains a thick vein of bite, and at the day's end this is the making of the film: turning it into a bittersweet salute to the man who makes a big difference.

West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema

ON CONNAIT LA CHANSON (PG)

Director: Alain Resnais
Starring: Pierre Arditi, Sabine Azema
Love him or loathe him, *Last Year at Marienbad* (Aleur Resnais) is a queer fish. Four years after the

Continental breakfast he made of Alan Ayckbourn's *Smoking/No Smoking* comes this rattling merry-go-round of romantic intrigue, 'inspired by the work of Dennis Potter', and featuring a lot of Potted-esque lip-synching to popular French show tunes. *West End: Chelsea Cinema, Renoir*

RUSH HOUR (15)

Director: Brett Ratner
Starring: Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Tom Wilkinson

Rush Hour marries the Hong Kong action icon Jackie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director (*Money Talks*) Ratner, and a wise-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. Its caffeinated plotline sends Easterner and Westerner on the trail of a Chinese crime syndicate and oscillates wildly between Tucker's verbal dexterity and Chan's adrenalised physicality. It's a hit-and-miss affair.

West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Cunden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

TWILIGHT (15)

Director: Robert Benton
Starring: Paul Newman, Susan Sarandon, Gene Hackman

Twilight reunites Newman with his *Nobody's Fool* collaborator Benton for a zimmer-framed film noir which has the former's ageing gumshoe moving in with movie-star huddy Hackman and uncovering a skeleton in the family closet. While this is predictable stuff, muscular acting from a practised cast moves it along nicely.

West End: Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill

YEAR OF THE HORSE (15)

Director: Jim Jarmusch
Starring: Neil Young and Crazy Horse

Jarmusch's documentary on Neil Young and Crazy Horse is respectful but never reverential, swinging between bracing live footage, robust interviews and discerning dips back into the archive. As a man, though, Young remains oddly oblique and unknowable, loitering in the background for most of the off-stage segments. He's content to let his music do the talking.

West End: ABC Piccadilly, Renoir

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Cunden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

MULAN (U)

In Disney's animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her father from combat. This has got it all. A pro-active heroine, a strong father/daughter relationship, honour and nobility, and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also visually innovative. *West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

TRADE (18)

Monotonous arcade-gambl thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

The students at writer-director Dan Rosen's American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure competition that awards straight A-grades to the contestants of suicides. Though not as nasty as the *Scream* films, this delivers a respectable quota of shocks. *West End: Metro, Virgin Trocadero*

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female struggling to gain purchase in a male world. Kapur largely neglects the chance for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. *West End: Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

THE EXORCIST: (25TH ANNIVERSARY RELEASE) (18)

The Exorcist is a creature conditioned by rumour and hearsay, its legend swelling in the 25 years since its release. But William Friedkin's horror is still terrifying. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End*

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman's cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lucidity, and the one stand-out is Johnny Depp who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. *West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket*

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Curzon Soho

IF ONLY (15)

John Dahl's poker-club thriller is not a grand comeback for the director of *The Last Seduction* but it's certainly an improvement on the eminently forgettable *Unforgettable*. *West End: Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End*

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Curzon Soho

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels' defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is helped by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category, but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is an old-school pro. *West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End*

LES MISÉRABLES (12)

Billy August turns Victor Hugo's novel into an enormous film and it's as traditional as literary adaptations come these days. It's earnest, differential and almost humourless. *West End: Odeon West End*

MULAN (U)

In Disney's animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her father from combat. This has got it all. A pro-active heroine, a strong father/daughter relationship, honour and nobility, and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also visually innovative. *West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket*

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The Exorcist is a creature conditioned by rumour and hearsay, its legend swelling in the 25 years since its release. But William Friedkin's horror is still terrifying. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End*

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman's cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lucidity, and the one stand-out is Johnny Depp who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. *West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket*

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Curzon Soho

IF ONLY (15)

John Dahl's poker-club thriller is not a grand comeback for the director of *The Last Seduction* but it's certainly an improvement on the eminently forgettable *Unforgettable*. *West End: Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End*

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Curzon Soho

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels' defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is helped by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category, but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is an old-school pro. *West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End*

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THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)

16/LISTINGS

ILFORD
ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Gants Hill Antz 2.30pm, 4.25pm, 6.15pm Babe: Pig In The City 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Blade 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Out of Sight 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Ronin 8.10pm Rush Hour 2.50pm, 5pm, 8.40pm

KILBURN
TRICYCLE THEATRE (0171-328 1000) ♦ Kilburn Dancing At Lughnasa 6.30pm, 8.45pm

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIMISTS (0870-902 0409) BR/ Kingston Antz 6pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm Out of Sight 2.10pm, 8.05pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705-050007) ♦ Highgate Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Out of Sight 2.40pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm Ronin 5.40pm, 8.20pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR/ Peckham Rye Antz 4.45pm Babe: Pig In The City 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 8.05pm Blade 4.30pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm Elizabeth 7pm The Negotiator 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm Out of Sight 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 9.05pm Ronin 9.10pm Rush Hour 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) BR/ Purley Antz 5.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 5.55pm, 8.30pm The Negotiator 2.15pm, 8.15pm Out of Sight 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870-9020401) ♦ Putney Bridge Bf 2pm, Antz 2.15pm Babe: Pig In The City 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Negotiator 2.15pm, 8.15pm Out of Sight 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705-050007) BR/ Richmond Antz 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm Blade 9.05pm Danding At Lughnasa 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Elizabeth 6.30pm, The Negotiator 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Ronin 1pm, 3pm, 4.30pm, 8pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR/ Romford, Antz 5.45pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Out of Sight 2.30pm, 8.15pm Rush Hour 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ODEON STUDIOS (08705-050007)
BR/ Richmond Antz 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm Blade 9.05pm Danding At Lughnasa 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Elizabeth 6.30pm, The Negotiator 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Ronin 1pm, 3pm, 4.30pm, 8pm

PHOENIX HIGH ROAD N2 (0181-446 6789) It's A Wonderful Life (U) 1.55pm First Of Fury (The Chinese Connection) 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm Blade 9.05pm Danding At Lughnasa 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Elizabeth 6.30pm, The Negotiator 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Ronin 1pm, 3pm, 4.30pm, 8pm

PRINCE CHARLES
ELIZABETH PLACE WC2 (0171-437 8181) Leon (1) 1pm The Disappearance Of Finbar (15) 3.30pm The Big Lebowski (16) 6pm Scarface (1983 version) (18) 8.40pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W1 (0171-20 0100) Stranger Than Paradise (15) 6.45pm + Dead Man (18) 8.40pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street (0181-568 1176) Left Luggage (PG) 5pm Divorcing Jack (15) 7pm Still Crazy (15) 9pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503) The Story Of The Late Chrysanthemums (Zangwill Monogram) 1.15pm The Eel (Umagi) (18) 4.50pm, 6.30pm

BRISTOL
CUBE (0114-907 4191) Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas (18) 7pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Re-release) (18) 9.30pm

O CHICAGO BR/ Broadway musical about two murderous women and their night club act. Adelaid Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) ♦ Charing X Mon-Sat 8pm, (4) 7.30pm, 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, Sun 11pm, 4pm, £10-£12, half price Friday matinees, £8-£10.50

THE SNOWMAN Award-winning production of Raymond Briggs' contemporary classic. Sadlers Wells At The Peacock Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8228) ♦ Holborn, 8pm, Friday 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 30 Jan, £7.50-£15, £3.50

CHIPPING NORTON Chipping Norton Theatre All Babes and the 40 Thieves Panto taken from the Arabian Nights. Today 2.30pm & 5pm, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £10-£12.50, £5-£10

EVERYMAN THEATRE Aladdin Princesses, pageants and antics in Peking. Today 2.15pm, ends 16 Jan, £4.50-£13. Regent Street (01424-525273)

WATERSHED (0171-925 3645) My Name Is Joe (15) 6pm La Vie Revere Des Anges (18) 6.05pm, 8.30pm Speak Like A Child 8.20pm

CARDIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Henry Folly (18) 2.30pm, 8pm Dance Of The Wind (U) 7.30pm

IPSWICH FILM THEATRE 01473-215544 Topic: Women Talk About Their Men (INC) 8pm, 8.15pm Funny Games (18) 6.15pm, 8.30pm

NORWICH CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) My Name Is Joe (15) 5.45pm

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE
CURZON (01323-731441); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In The City (U); Out of Sight (15); Rush Hour (15)

EASTBOURNE CURZON (01323-731441); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In The City (U); Out of Sight (15); Rush Hour (15)

VIRGIN (0890-888990) ♦ Surrey Quays Antz 2.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm Babe: Pig In The City 2pm, 4.00pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Negotiator 1.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Ronin 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm

SURREY QUAYS (0890-888990) ♦ Surrey Quays Antz 2.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm Babe: Pig In The City 2pm, 4.00pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Negotiator 1.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Ronin 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm

SUTTON (0890-888990) ♦ Sutton Antz 2.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm Babe: Pig In The City 2pm, 4.00pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Negotiator 1.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Ronin 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm

STRATFORD NEW PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) BR/ Stratford East Antz 1pm Babe: Pig In The City 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm It's A Wonderful Life 5.25pm The Negotiator 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Ronin 9pm, 12midnight Rush Hour 1pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

TURNPIKE LANE (0181-888 2519) ♦ Turnpike Lane Antz 3.45pm, 5.40pm Babe: Pig In The City 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

UXBRIDGE (08705-050007) ♦ Uxbridge Antz 1.45pm, 4.05pm Babe: Pig In The City 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Out of Sight 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

WALTHAMSTON (0870-902 0424) ♦ Walthamstow Central Antz 5pm Babe: Pig In The City 1.40pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.25pm Out of Sight 2.15pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.40pm

WATFORD (08705-050007) ♦ Watford Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In The City (U); Blade (18); Elizabeth (15); Mulan (U); The Negotiator (15); Out of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG); Ronin (15); Small Soldiers (PG); Washington Square (PG)

WATFORD (08705-050007) ♦ Watford Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In The City (U); Blade (18); Elizabeth (15); Mulan (U); The Negotiator (15); Out of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG); Ronin (15); Small Soldiers (PG)

WHITECHAPEL ART GALLERIES (01705-823588); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In The City (U); Out of Sight (15); Small Soldiers (PG); There's Something About Mary (15)

WHITECHAPEL ART GALLERIES (01705-823588); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig In The City (U); Blade (18); Dr Dolittle (PG); Elizabeth (15); The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Re-release) (18); Frederic (U); Mulan (U); The Negotiator (15); Out of Sight (15); The Parent Trap (PG); Ronin (15); Small Soldiers (PG)

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WHITECHAPEL ART GALLERIES (01705-823

WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.9-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Mark Goodier. 2.00 Mark
Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles.
5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave
Pearce. 6.00 Steve Lamacq - the
Evening Session. 10.00 Movie
Update with Mark Kermode. 10.10
John Peel. 12.00 Gilles Peterson.
2.00 Clive Warren. 4.00 - 6.30
Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(88.9-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake
Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.
12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed
Stewart. 5.05 Jimmi Walker.
7.00 Nick Barracough. 8.00
Mike Harding. 8.00 The Andy
Peebles Soul Show. 10.00 Route
66 Revisited. See *Pick of the Day*.
10.30 Richard Allinson. 11.45
Following My Star. 12.00 Lynn
Persons. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: El-
liott Carter.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-
cert. (R)

2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Choral Evensong.
5.00 In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. Conduct-
or Trevor Pinnock. Ross Mennie-
(soprano), John Mark Ainsley
(tenor), Alan Ewing (bass), BBC
National Chorus of Wales. Haydn:
The Creation.
9.40 Postscript. Four illustrated
reflections on kitsch. 3: Roger
Scruton, visiting professor of phi-
losophy at Birkbeck, argues that
kitsch is a corrupt reflection of a
society without genuine values,
and one which fatally undermines
art.

10.00 Ensemble. The second of
two programmes in which Penny
Gore investigates how Mozart,
Haydn and Beethoven responded
to upper-class patronage. Mozart:
Violin Sonata in G, K379. Krzysztof
Smetana, Caroline Palmer (piano).
Beethoven: Cello Sonata in D, Op
102 No 2. Louise Hopkins, Alek-
sander Madzar (piano).

PICK OF THE DAY

MANY PEOPLE have been put off
Shakespeare after encountering
his work at secondary school.
One of the problems, according
to *Golden Lads and Girls* (11am R4), is that they started
too late. This feature looks at
taking Shakespeare into junior
schools, and shows very young
children coping with much
trouble, and enjoying it. Mark
Rylance (right) is the presenter.

Education 2000 (8pm R4) is
a new series of "forums" on
planned changes to the schools
system. This first programme
concentrates on arguments
about teaching standards.

Nick Barracough gets his
kicks in *Route 66 Revisited* (10pm R2), following the great
highway through the heart of
America in seven programmes.

ROBERT HANKS

10.45 Night Waves. The history
of western civilisation and the
story of its cities have been inextricably
linked, from ancient Athens
and Rome to London and Los
Angeles today. Cities have been
crucial centres of creativity, but what
makes one thrive and another goes
into decline? Patrick Wright talks
to Peter Hall, whose epic new
study *Cities in Civilisation* takes
on some of the most ambitious
questions in cultural history.

11.30 Jazz Notes.

12.00 Composer of the Week:
Mozart. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.8MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

9.00 News: Midweek.

9.45 Serial: Charles Dickens:
Journalist.

10.00 News: Woman's Hour.

11.00 News: Golden Lads and
Girls. See *Pick of the Day*.

11.30 Future Bones.

12.00 News: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

2.00 News: The Archers.

2.25 The Golden Triangle.

3.00 News: Gardeners' Question
Time.

3.30 Coffee - a Hellish Brew.

3.45 Saving Mr Ugwu.

4.00 News: Case Notes.

4.30 Thinking Allowed.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 Bookend.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.45 Front Row. Mark Lawson
chairs the arts programme. In this
edition, he investigates the prob-
lems of actors making the leap
from television celebrity to Holly-
wood stardom, as *X Files* star
David Duchovny returns to British
cinemas this week in his new film,
Playing God.

7.45 Still Waters. By Sergio Casci.

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